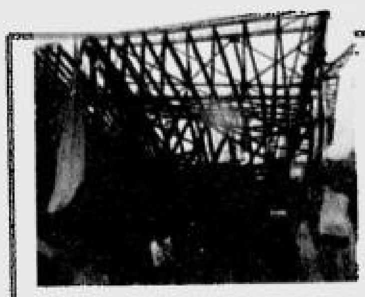


SUPER / D1

Billboards: Heed writing on wall and bring back the sky

METRO / A19

Mike A files ₱22-M libel raps again vs PDI, Tulfo brothers

WORLD / A22

US Congress probes sex scandal now rocking Republican party

BUSINESS / B1

Forex reserves hit all-time high at $21.56 billion

Electricity spot market goes on despite probe

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Abigail L. Ho

THE GOVERNMENT WILL ALLOW THE LOCAL electricity spot market to continue operations despite allegations of price manipulation involving its single biggest player, the state-owned Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM).

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla has ignored

ELECTRICITY/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Saturday, October 7, 2006 ★★ 7 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 301 P18 website: www.inq7.net

It's geek-turn-chic at IgNobel Prizes night

PWEDE D'YAN YUNG SINO ANG NA UNA... YUNG ITLOG O YUNG MANOK?

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts—Scientists who answered questions such as why woodpeckers don't get headaches, whether dung beetles like their diet and if rectal massage can cure hic-

IT'S GEEK-TURN/ A10

Gov't loses ₱25-B tax evasion case vs Lucio Tan

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT YESTERDAY LOST ITS P25-billion tax evasion case against the country's second richest person, tobacco tycoon Lucio Tan, after the Marikina Metropolitan Trial Court dismissed the case for insufficient evidence.

The decision was a blow to the Bureau of Internal Revenue which has been trying since 1993 to go after the alleged tax liabilities of Tan, who made his fortune in cigarettes and beer during the dictatorship of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos but has repeatedly denied that he was a Marcos crony or acquired several companies at preferential prices.

The Marikina court dismissed charges that Tan's Fortune Tobacco Corp. and its executives evaded P25 billion in taxes by not paying the correct amount on cigarettes from 1990 to 1993.

In a decision penned by Presiding Judge Alex E. Ruiz, the court said the prosecution failed to prove that Fortune owned even a single share of stock in what the BIR alleged were its dummy corporations.

The court acquitted Tan and 54 other coaccused who were alleged to be officers of the alleged dummy companies.

The BIR accused Fortune of creating nine

GOV'T LOSES/ A9

Imelda wins graft case; 75 to go

By Norman Bordadora

FORMER FIRST LADY IMELDA MARCOS wept and whispered a prayer after the antigraft court yesterday found her innocent of corruption charges in one of the many cases still pending against her.

"I thank the court for acquitting me," said Marcos, who has at least 75 criminal and civil cases (down from 900) still pending before the Sandiganbayan and other courts.

"I have survived 20 years of relentless persecution. The truth has prevailed," she said, after the promulgation of the decision of the antigraft court's Fifth Division.

The Fifth Division, composed of Associate Justices Roland Jurado, Ma. Cristina Cortez Estrada and Teresita Diaz Baldos, also acquitted

IMELDA/ A9

REUTERS

IMELDA Marcos breaks down at the Sandiganbayan after she hears the not guilty verdict over a 13-year-old graft case.

Nursing leak nationwide

Prosecutor protests no rebuttal in rape case

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE SUBIC RAPE CASE HAS TAKen an even more controversial turn, with a member of the state prosecution panel denouncing the decision of the panel chair to waive the rebuttal of defense evidence that might have cast doubt on the testimony of prosecution witnesses.

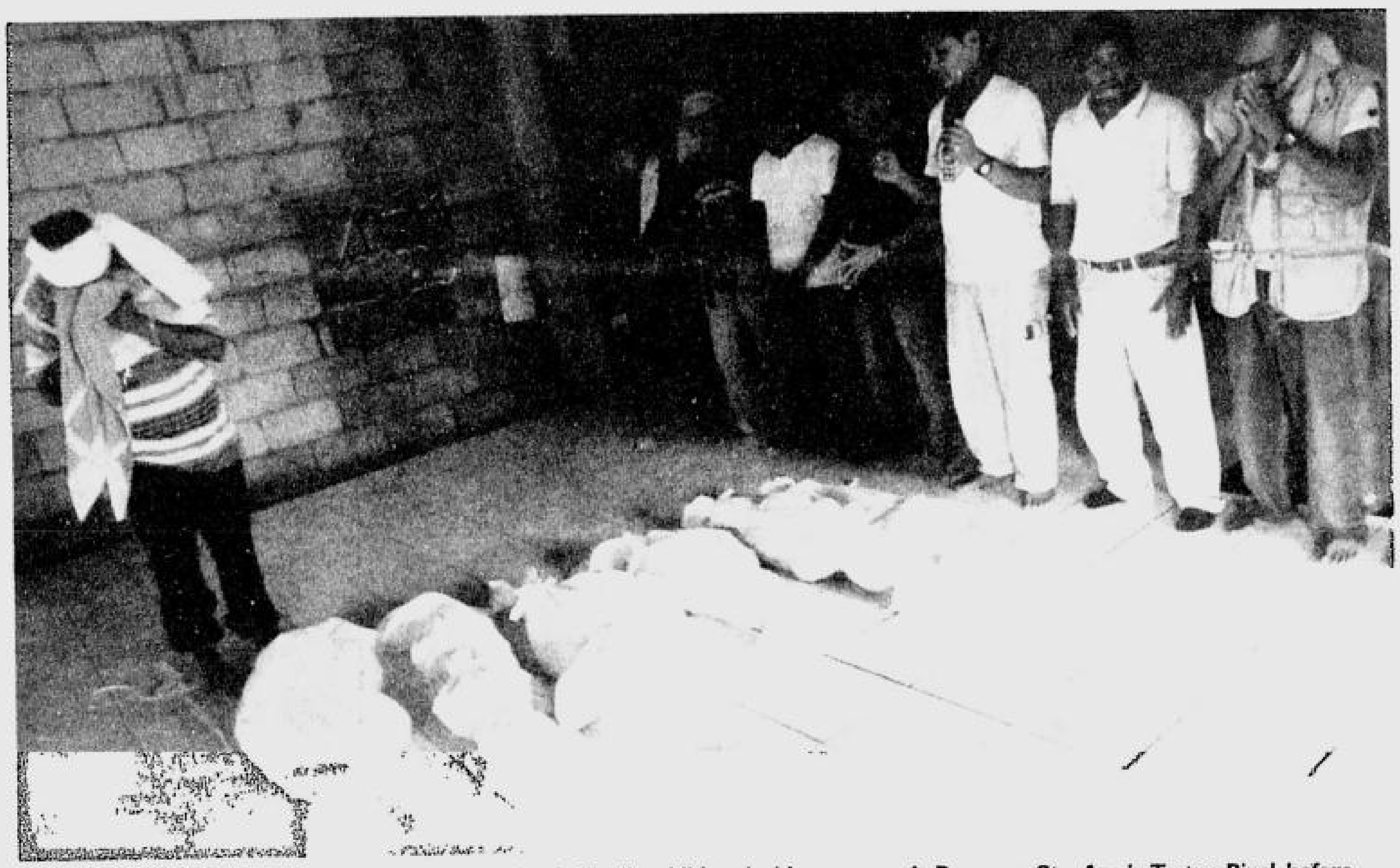
In a phone interview yesterday with the INQUIRER, State Prosecutor Hazel Valdez assailed Senior State Prosecutor Emilie Fe de los Santos for canceling the planned presentation of rebuttal witnesses without consulting "Nicole," the Filipino complainant against four US Marines, or her private lawyer Evalyn Ursua.

Valdez is the only one among the five state prosecutors whom Nicole had wanted to retain.

"I stand firm on the position that we should have presented rebuttal witnesses. I still believe we made a good case, but we should've taken this opportunity rather than regret it in the future. Because what if the decision is an acquittal?" said Valdez.

Asked what she believed was behind the waiver of the planned rebuttal, Valdez said: "You would suspect the timing. I can't dis-

PROSECUTOR/ A8



BURIED BEFORE SUNSET. An imam prays over the six Muslim children inside a mosque in Barangay Sta. Ana in Taytay, Rizal, before bringing them to Maharlika Village for burial before sunset in accordance with the Islamic faith. Police did not allow the incarcerated parents to attend the funeral without first securing a court order.

RAFFY LERMA

6 'home-alone' kids die in Taytay fire

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THEY WERE NOT EVEN ALlowed to bury their children.

Three days ago, inside a courtroom, Ton Daud and his wife, Faudzia, were sharing a simple repast of biscuits and bottled water with their four sons and a daughter, aged 2 to 7.

Little did Ton and Faudzia know that that was the last time they would see them.

Yesterday, an hourlong fire razed their home in Taytay, Rizal, killing all the five children and one of their playmates.

When their bodies were found, one of the children was still cradling the 2-year-old in her arms.

Ton and Faudzia would have done everything to save them.

But they were kilometers away—detained for the last two months in the Philippine National Police Headquarters in Camp Crame in Quezon City for alleged involvement in illegal drugs.

Nor did they get to see the remains of their children before they were buried yesterday afternoon at the Imam Moh Kusin Memorial Park inside the Maharlika Village in Taguig City:

6 HOME-ALONE/ A6

Five new witnesses come forward

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Christine O. Avendaño

IT NOW APPEARS that the cheating in the June nursing licensure examination (NLE) was nót confined to Luzon but was nationwide in scope, and involved not just two but four subjects of the five-part exam.

Five nursing graduates from Baguio City who took the board exam have come forward to claim that questions in Tests I and II—covering fundamentals of nursing practice and maternal and child health nursing, respectively—had been leaked to them.

The ongoing investigations are focused on the leak of questions for Tests III and V.

The five nursing graduates have submitted their affidavits to the National Bureau of Investigation.

This information was disclosed to the INQUIRER by Rene Luis Tadle, president of the Faculty Associa-

NURSING/ A6

Thailand coup leader No. 1 of PMA Class '81

By Fe Zamora

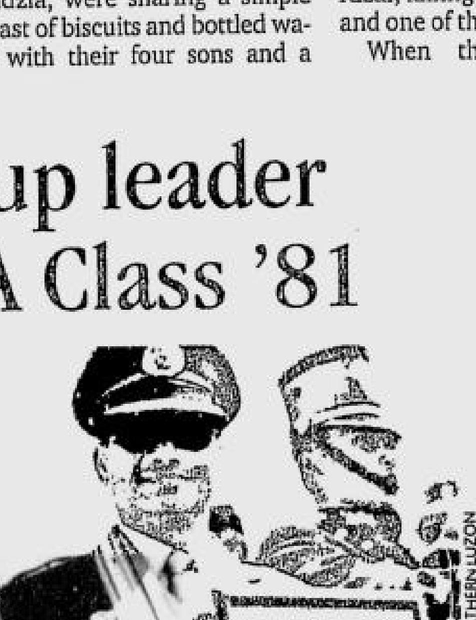
IN FEBRUARY, AMID RUMORS OF A coup plot against President Macapagal-Arroyo, cadets at the Philippine Military Academy were according a very special guest military honors.

Nobody had an inkling then that on Sept. 19, Maj. Gen. Thawip Netniyom, a top official of the Royal Thai Army and the topnotcher of PMA Class of 1981, would be among the leaders of a coup against Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

During the coup, Thawip commanded the armor unit that surrounded and secured key government and private installations.

He was named spokesperson of the Council for Democratic Reform days

THAILAND/ A11



VINCENT CABREZA/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

MAJ. GEN. THAWIP NETNIYOM: Is PMA training coup plotters?—is asked in jest.

Esperat killers get life but brains free

By Jolene R. Bulambot
Inquirer Visayas
and Armand Nocum

CEBU CITY—IN A DECISION WHICH left the victim's family still hankering for justice, a regional trial court judge yesterday convicted three men of murdering antigraft crusading journalist Marlene Esperat, and sentenced them to a maximum of 40 years in jail each.

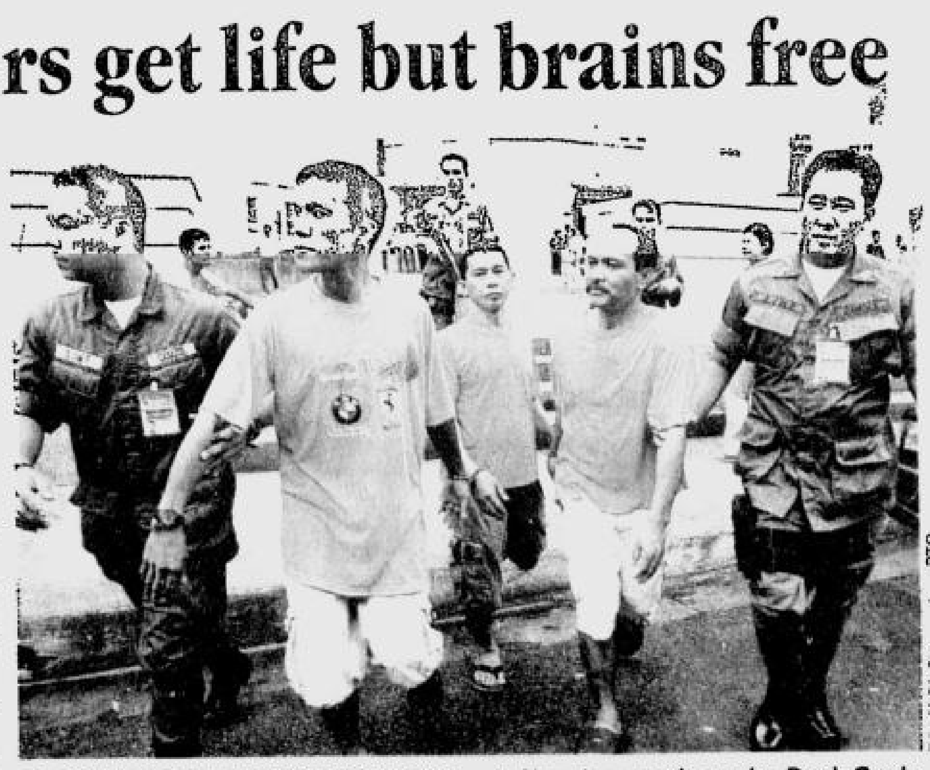
Standing before Judge Eric Menchavez, the three defendants showed no emotion as the verdict was read out while silence engulfed the courtroom.

"We are not really happy with the decision. We want the mastermind," said Rynche Garcia Arcones, 24, a daughter of Esperat from her previous marriage.

Media groups hailed the verdict as a victory for press freedom.

The convicted trio had confessed to the killing, saying they were ordered to

ESPERAT / A6



TONEE DESPOJO

BUT WHERE ARE THE MASTERMINDS? Escorted by prison guards, convicts Randy Grecia, Gerry Cabayag and Estanislao Bismanos had confessed to being hired killers for P120,000.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: LAW DE GUZMAN, PDI RESEARCH/10/06/06

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Second FRONTPAGE

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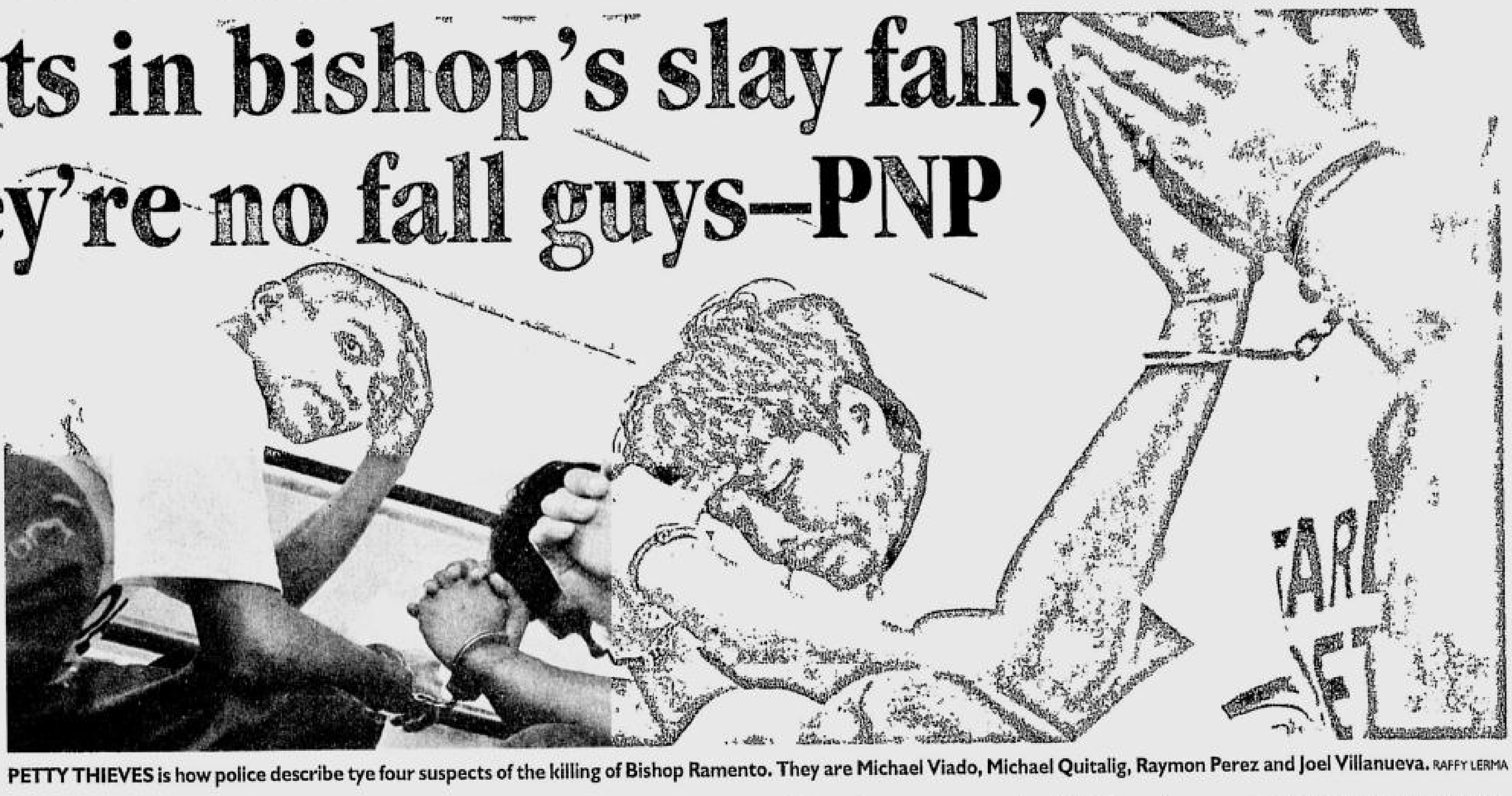
Suspects in bishop's slay fall, but they're no fall guys—PNP

By Alcuin Papa and Tonette Orejas
PDI Northern Luzon


PETTY THIEVES is how police describe tye four suspects of the killing of Bishop Ramento. They are Michael Viado, Michael Quitalig, Raymon Perez and Joel Villanueva. RAFFY LERMA

POLICE HAS DEclared the murder of Aglipayan bishop Alberto Ramento solved with the arrest of four petty thieves in Tarlac.

"This definitely is not a case of political killing," said Senior Supt. Nicanor Bartolome, the Tarlac police director who took the suspects to Philippine National Police headquarters in Camp Crame yesterday.

Ramento, 69, a bishop of the Philippine Independent Church and a critic of President Macapagal-Arroyo, was stabbed to death on Oct. 3 inside his church in Tarlac.

The suspects—identified as Michael Viado, 30, Michael Quitalig, 21, Raymon Perez, 19, and Joel Villanueva, 21—were members of a petty crime gang engaged in shoplifting, cell phone snatching and victimizing market goers, said Tarlac police chief Supt. Rudy Lacadin.

In a press briefing, PNP Chief and Director General Oscar Calderon said the four were no fall guys.

"We have witnesses who pointed to the suspects as being in the area at the time the crime was committed. This is not part of the political killings. This appears to be a plain and simple robbery and homicide case," Calderon said.

Calderon said the PNP considered the statements from Ramento's family that the bishop had been receiving death threats over his support for the striking workers of Hacienda Luisita.

"We respect that but this is all based on physical and testimonial evidence. At the start, we looked into that [the political killing angle]. But the only evidence we have shows it was a robbery," he said.

Bartolome said the arrest of the four confirmed initial police findings that the murder of Ramento was a case of robbery, contrary to claims by militant groups that the crime was "politically motivated."

He said the suspects were arrested after "relentless investigative and manhunt" operations extending to as far as Arayat, Pampanga where Quitalig was caught.

Police were tipped off about Quitalig's whereabouts by his own parents who told investigators of their suspicion that their son may have participated in Ramento's murder.

The suspects confessed to killing and robbing Ramento in the presence of a government lawyer, police said.

The suspects said they conceived of a plan to rob and kill Ramento when they saw the bishop run a soup kitchen for poor children.

Lacadin said police recovered the bishop's ring from a local trader who bought it from the suspects and a DVD player from the suspects.

Bartolome said the four suspects did not have any link with the military, police or communist rebels.

"They either have served terms for theft and robbery or are facing charges for the same," he said.

He said Quitalig was the first to be arrested in Arayat, Pampanga, on Thursday night.

Information from Quitalig led to the arrest of Perez, Villanueva and Viado, the gang leader, in Tarlac at dawn yesterday. A fifth suspect, who was not identified, remains at large.

Bartolome said the four suspects pointed at each other when asked which one had stabbed Ramento.

They are to be returned to Tarlac City for an inquest at the city prosecutor's office.

But militants, who claim that Ramento had received numerous death threats from unidentified men he had suspected to be military intelligence agents, refused to believe the police announcement that the case was solved.

Military dragnet turns up heat on Indon terror suspects

US-BACKED MILITARY OPERAtives are spreading a massive dragnet over suspected rebel lairs in the mountainous town of Patikul, Jolo, to capture two suspected Indonesian terrorists wanted for the 2002 Bali bombings that killed 202 people.

The capture early Wednesday of the wife of a top Indonesian terror suspect in Patikul, Sulu, indicates that the husband, identified as Dulmatin, and possibly another suspected bomber of the shadowy al-Qaida-linked Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) group are hiding in southern Philippines, military spokesperson Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro told reporters.

"We believe Dulmatin and [another suspected Indonesian terrorist] Umar Patek are still in Jolo," Bacarro said. "Our troops are tracking them down. We are closing in on them," Bacarro said, adding that military operations will continue until they are captured.

Over 6,000 troops have been deployed in Sulu in the past two months to flush out the suspected Indonesian terrorists and their local "host," Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khadaffy Janjalani—all of whom are on Washington's most-wanted list.

The US has offered a $10-million (about P500 million) reward for Dulmatin, an alleged bomb expert for the Southeast Asian terrorist group. Officials believe he and other Indonesian militants crossed into southern Philippines and have teamed up with the Sulu and Basilan-based Abu Sayyaf rebels to set up terrorist training camps and plot attacks.

Washington has also deployed troops to the southern Philippines since 2002 to arm and provide training to Filipino forces battling the militants. US troops also have provided high-tech assistance to track down Indonesian and Filipino militants on Jolo.

Malacañang was reportedly elated over the new developments. "The President is happy that we are moving forward as far as antiterror is concerned," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said yesterday.

The arrest of Dulmatin's wife, Istiada BHT Oemar Sovie, will almost certainly turn up the heat on the terror suspect, said Ermita, the Cabinet's most senior member.

"If I were that significant fellow being sought by the authorities, I would feel disturbed that someone in the family has been arrested. You can imagine that he is very concerned about what happened to his family," Ermita told reporters.

However, along with the Dulmatin's wife, the military also took into custody Dulmatin's two children, aged 6 and 8 years old.

Ermita said the Department of Social Welfare and Development was "consulted on how to take care of the 6- and 8-year-old sons who were taken under custody together with their mother."

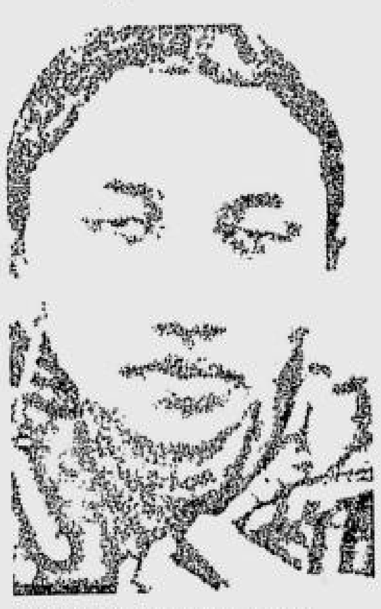
Military officers also took pains to explain that the family was "not being held for terrorism."

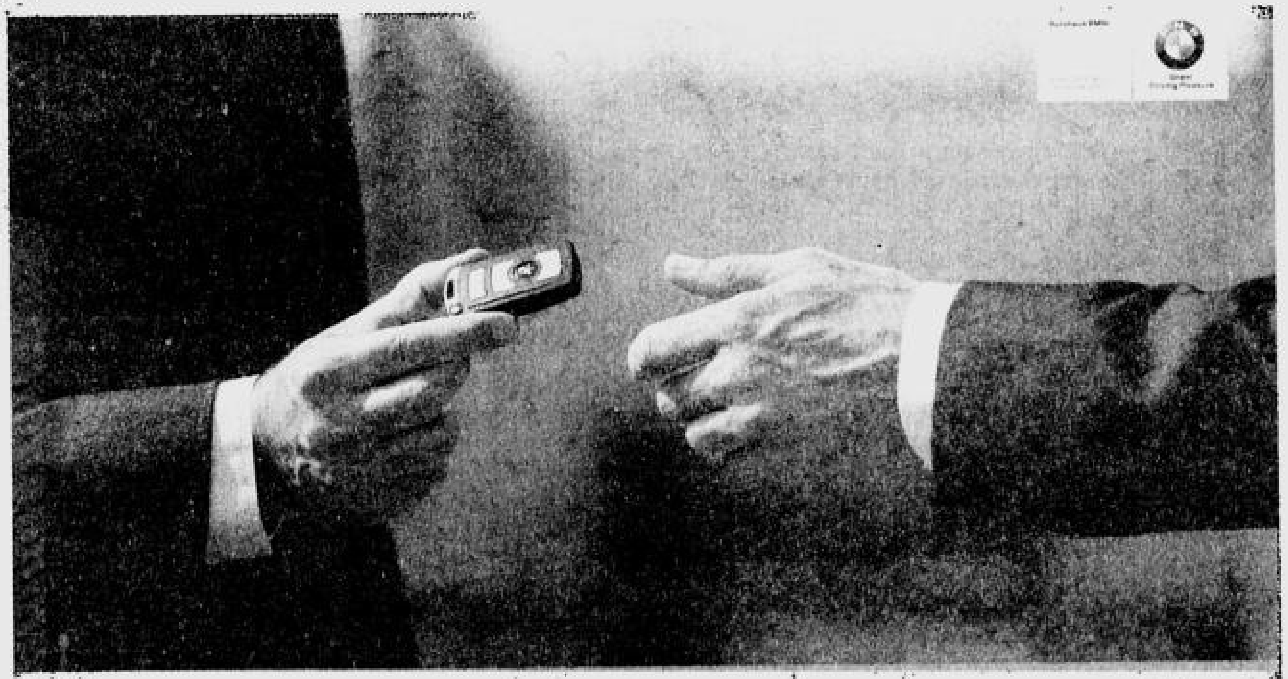
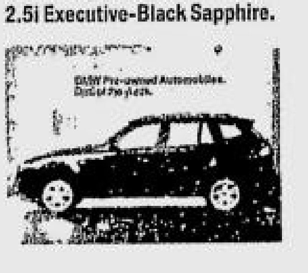
In Davao City, Col. Juancho Sabban, Third Marine Brigade chief, told the INQUIRER that the military was holding Sovie and her young children, as "illegal aliens."

"She is not a terrorist. Her children are not terrorists," Sabban said.

Sovie is suspected to have illegally entered the country with her husband and other Indonesian terror suspects through the Mindanao backdoor.They were taken into custody during a raid on Barangay Sandan, Patikul, Sulu by government security forces.

Dona Pazzibugan, Christine Avendaño, Julie Alipala in Mindanao; and AP reports.


SOVIE: Not a terror suspect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325i	Titanium Silver	2006	P2,975,000	1,490 km
330i Sport	Arctic	2005	P3,850,000	11,985 km
523i	Titanium Silver	2006	P4,100,000	11,985 km
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Palace: Killing RSBS won't stir AFP unrest

By Christine O. Avendano and TJ Burgonio

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY DISMISSED speculations that the abolition of the financially-strapped Retirement and Separation Benefits System (RSBS) and its replacement with a new pension fund would stir up restiveness in the military ranks.

"I don't see how there could be restiveness because the move of Department of Defense and the Armed Forces of the Philippines is precisely to stabilize the situation and safeguard the interest of members of RSBS," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita told reporters.

The defense department intends to deactivate RSBS on Dec. 31 to prevent the further bleeding of the pension fund and to ensure that soldiers get back their contributions with a 6-percent annual interest when they retire.

On Wednesday, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon had warned that the RSBS controversy could stir up restiveness among the troops. "Some elements could use this situation toward destabilizing acts," he reiterated yesterday.

New pension plan

Ermita said defense and military officials intend to put up a new pension fund "ala GSIS (Government Service Insurance System)" to replace RSBS.

As a retired general and a pensioner, he said he did not see any reason to oppose the setting up of a new pension fund for military personnel.

Ermita said when he was still defense secretary, they had explored the possibility of disposing of the real estate assets of RSBS.

"At that time we were told by our assistants it was not correct to dispose of the assets because the prices may not be beneficial for RSBS and its members."

Asked about whether cases would be filed against those responsible for RSBS' financial mess, Ermita said there were already cases filed against them.

He said the Palace was bent on the prosecution of these officials.

Senators yesterday sought the imprisonment of the RSBS officials behind the dissipation of the pension fund.

"They should jail all those who are responsible for this. It is totally unfair to our soldiers whose pensions are prejudiced by the crimes committed by the management of RSBS. I feel strongly about that," Sen. Franklin Drilon told reporters.

He said the dissipation of the fund was "unfair" to the officers and men of the Armed Forces who have been dutifully contributing a portion of their salaries to the fund in the hopes collecting a bigger return when they retire.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. agreed with the plan to abolish RSBS, but stressed that those who made it a "milking cow" should not go unpunished.

"It is time that it be disbanded. But care should be made that in disbanding it, the culprits, some of whom are now charged in court upon the prodding of the Blue Ribbon Committee, do not go scot-free and its beneficiaries, especially the soldiers, should be properly compensated," he said.

Facing charges

Former RSBS officials, led by former AFP chief Lisandro Abadia and retired Gen. Jose Ramiscal, a former RSBS president, are facing graft charges before the Sandiganbayan.

In 1999, the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee, chaired by Pimentel, recommended the prosecution of Abadia and Ramiscal for granting behest loans to the Antipolo Properties Inc. (API) and Marilaque stockholders, among others.

Abadia, then Army chief, chaired both API and Marilaque.

The military is closely monitoring the cases, defense officials said.

BACK TO MAMA. Jamie Liz Castillo is welcomed home by parents Jimmy and Beth Castillo. JESS YUSON

RP beauty's Miss Globe misadventures

By Nikko Dizon

A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS HAPpened to Jamie Liz Castillo, the Philippine candidate to the Miss Globe International 2006 beauty pageant in Albania.

She lost her cellphone and some belongings in the dressing room. On the eve of the pageant, she spent six hours untangling the beads of her national costume and sewing them back on. On her way home, her plane was hijacked and she ended up in Brindisi, Italy, instead of in the arms of her family in Manila.

Castillo was one of the 113 passengers and crew aboard a Turkish Airlines aircraft plane hijacked last Tuesday over Greek air space:

Amid all these, the beauty queen relied on her faith and the unwavering love of family and friends to see her through.

Blessed

"I've been praying the whole time. I think I'm blessed having such good parents and very caring friends who actually supported me the whole time while I was having all these misfortunes," Castillo, 23, said at a press conference shortly after arriving at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) yesterday afternoon.

"I realized a lot of people worried about me, a lot of people cared. My God! This must be the reason this happened—for me to realize that there are a lot of people who care about me," she said.

Castillo also expressed her gratitude to Alfonso Ver, the Philippine consul general in Istanbul, who helped her get a new, albeit, longer flight route back to the Philippines.

"Hearing him tell me that everything was going to be OK was a big comfort after what we went through," she said.

Castillo was met at the airport by her parents, Jimmy and Beth, and older brother Jericho.

Castillo, the 2003 Mutya ng Pilipinas, was working as a media planner for an advertising agency when she was chosen to represent the country in the Miss Globe International 2006 beauty pageant.

Hijacked

On pre-pageant night, Castillo and another contestant lost their cell phones and some cash inside the dressing room. During rehearsals, the beads of her national costume got entangled. She spent six hours fixing the beads and sewing them back to get the gown ready for pageant night.

She was on her way home, along with other pageant contestants from Singapore, Malaysia and India, when their flight was hijacked by Hakan Ekinci, reportedly to protest the upcoming visit of Pope Benedict XVI to Turkey.

Ekinci commanded the Turkish Airlines Boeing 737-400, which took off from Albania, to fly to Italy where he later surrendered and freed all 113 passengers and crew unharmed.

Castillo recounted that 15 minutes after take off, the pilot announced that they had to land in Italy because the aircraft had some technical problems.

They landed at Brindisi airport, where the plane stayed for three to four hours while its lights and airconditioning turned on and off.

Terror on board

"We had no idea that the plane had been hijacked until one American passenger, who understood Albanian, finally said that someone had kidnapped us," Castillo said.

The man urged the passengers to sit on the floor and keep themselves safe.

Castillo said she was terrified when the plane went dark except for the emergency lights that lined the floor.

Miss Malaysia, she said, was already crying. "All four of us just held hands. I borrowed Miss Singapore's phone and sent a text message to my family telling them what happened and that I was all right."

When it was over, Castillo said she didn't know that the man who emerged from the cockpit wearing 'a pilot's cap and a blue sweater was the hijacker because he even waved at the passengers while being escorted out of the plane by the Italian police.

Liquids still no-no on flights

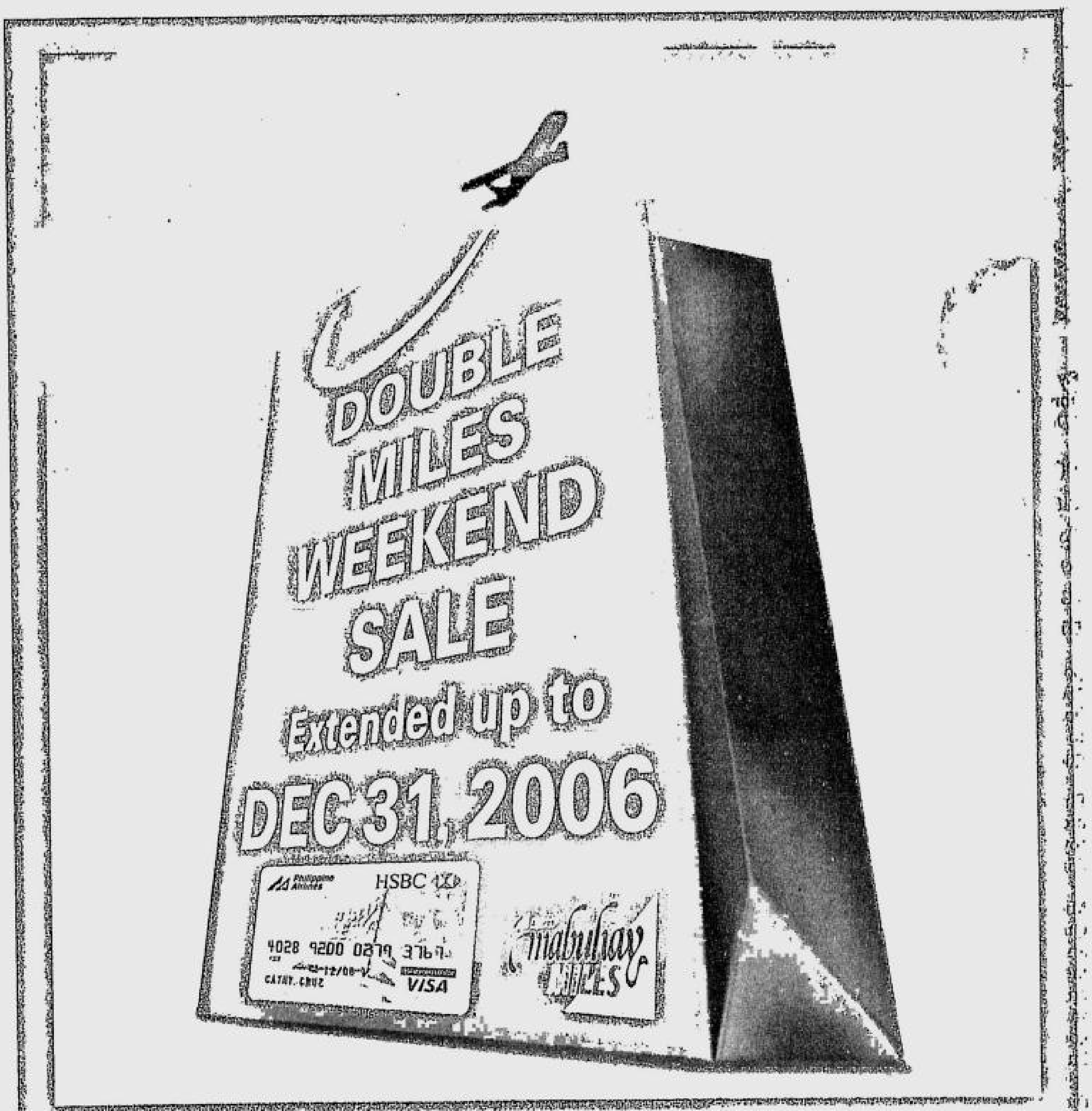
THE AIRPORT AUthority clarified yesterday that it had never lifted the liquid ban imposed last August at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) following the foiled terrorist attack in London's Heathrow airport.

The ban includes liquid and gel-like substances such as beverages, lotions, shampoo, creams, toothpaste, astringents, and other items of similar consistency.

"Passengers are still advised to have these items in their check-in luggage. If found in their possession at the final screening checkpoint, these items will be confiscated," the airport authority said in a statement.

However, these items will be allowed in hand-carried bags of passengers of all flights, including those bound for the US, if purchased at the duty free or retail shops located at the final screening checkpoint.

Nikko Dizon



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Palace funding Cha-cha drive–Drilon

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE SO-CALLED PEOPLE'S INITIATIVE pushed by Sigaw ng Bayan and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines is funded by the government.

Sen. Franklin Drilon, chair of the Senate finance committee, said this after officials of Malacanang's Office of the Press Secretary admitted during a hearing on its P886.9 million proposed budget for 2007 that funds of various agencies under the OPS are being used for information campaign on charter change.

"From the budget hearing today of the (OPS), it is clear that Sigaw ng Bayan is being funded at least to the extent of P10 million as admitted by the OPS for various expenses for the advocacy of the cha-cha," Drilon said.

Drilon said the use of public funds to advance charter change is improper, and said the Commission on Audit should determine whether this should be allowed. He said Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno admitted in an earlier budget hearing that the use of government funds and personnel by the local officials for charter change is improper.

"To me the expenditure of public funds for charter change is unauthorized and improper," Drilon said after the hearing. But he said the Senate could do little about it because the President can always veto or restore the amount for charter change campaign if the senators slashed it from the budget.

Drilon, however, said the use of the OPS funds should convince the Supreme Court that the petition lodged by Sigaw and Ulap is not a genuine people's initiative.

"The Supreme Court should take note that government funds are being used for the advocacy of the Sigaw ng Bayan, which is supposed to be a people's initiative," Drilon said.

The Senate is one of the opponents of the petition which seeks to change the system of government from presidential to parliamentary.

"It's not a secret that the President is in favor of political change through constitutional reform," Presidential Spokesperson and Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said when Drilon asked if charter change was one of the advocacies supported by the OPS.

Bunye said that because of the President's open endorsement of charter change, the OPS can promote programs explaining it.

Bunye, however, left it to other officials to answer how much they are spending for charter change campaign.

NBN 4 general manager Jose Isabelo said the government television station had allocated P4.5 million this year and would need another P2 million next year for information campaign on charter change.

Isabelo said NBN 4's program "The final say: Cha-Cha", aired every Wednesday night, is produced at P80,000 per episode. He said they have finished the first season lasting for 13 weeks and they are now embarking on its second season.

Philippine Information Agency director general Conrado "Dodi" Limcaoco Jr. said the PIA has been given P3 million for the information campaign of the Advocacy Commission on Charter Change, which the President created through Executive Order 495. He said the mandate of the advocacy commission, which replaced the presidential constitutional commission, was to "propagate the version of charter change advocated by the President."

Bureau of Broadcast Services Director Rafael Dante Cruz said the charter change program is incorporated in the existing programs of the BBS and Radyo ng Bayan.

DILG forms antidrug councils

By Norman Bordadora

THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND local government has organized 35,655 barangay anti-drug abuse councils nationwide in line with the government's campaign to reduce the incidence of drug use and drug-related crimes at the community level

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno said these organized councils already cover 90.22 percent of the department's target of 39,522 barangays nationwide.

"We hope to expand the coverage of our BADACs to 100 percent so that we can tap these councils as effective instruments in our war against illegal drugs," Puno said.

"The war against this multibillion-peso scourge can only succeed if we involve our communities in this campaign at the grassroots level," he added.

Puno has called on local chief executives to conduct information campaigns on illegal drugs at the barangay level to educate the public on the devastating effects of this social menace and help bring down the incidence of drug-related crimes in their respective communities.

He said conducting these information drives at the grassroots would help law enforcers, with the cooperation of these affected communities, to pinpoint drug-affected barangays and sustain the government's campaign in making the Philippines a drug-free country by 2010.

Corrections

Maj. Gen. Horacio Tolentino

Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino

IN YESTERDAY'S ISSUE, A FRONT PAGE article—"AFP refuses to blame RSBS' former execs for funds' loss"—misstated the first name of the Armed Forces' deputy chief of staff for personnel (J1). He is Maj. Gen. Horacio Tolentino—not Romeo Tolentino, who is the chief of the Philippine Army and a lieutenant general.

The same story misspelled the last name of the RSBS president. His name is Cesar Jayme Jr.—not Cesar Jaime Jr.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, October 7, 2006
Our Lady of the Rosary

1st Reading: Acts 1:12-14
Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth. He was sent to a young virgin who was betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the family of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

The angel came to her and said, "Rejoice, full of grace, the Lord is with you." Mary was troubled at these words, wondering what this greeting could mean.

But the angel said, "Do not fear, Mary, for God has looked kindly on you. You shall conceive and bear a son and you shall call him Jesus. He will be great and shall rightly be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the kingdom of David, his ancestor; he will rule over the people of Jacob forever and his reign shall have no end."

Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be if I am a virgin?" And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the holy child to be born shall be called Son of God. Even your relative Elizabeth is expecting a son in her old age, although she was unable to have a child, and she is now in her sixth month. With God nothing is impossible."

Then Mary said, "I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me as you have said." And the angel left her.

Commentary

We find ourselves in the upper room waiting with the disciples, some women, including Mary, the mother of Jesus and his brothers, in obedience to Jesus, praying constantly. The Spirit will come upon them and give birth to the Church. This experience is an echo of the experience of each individual—like Mary when the Spirit is sent upon her and all of us and the power of the Most High overshadows us and the Holy Child to be born in us is called the Son of God. We walk with Mary, as a disciple of The Word, obeying God's word to us, living in obedience, living in the Spirit, hidden with Christ in God.

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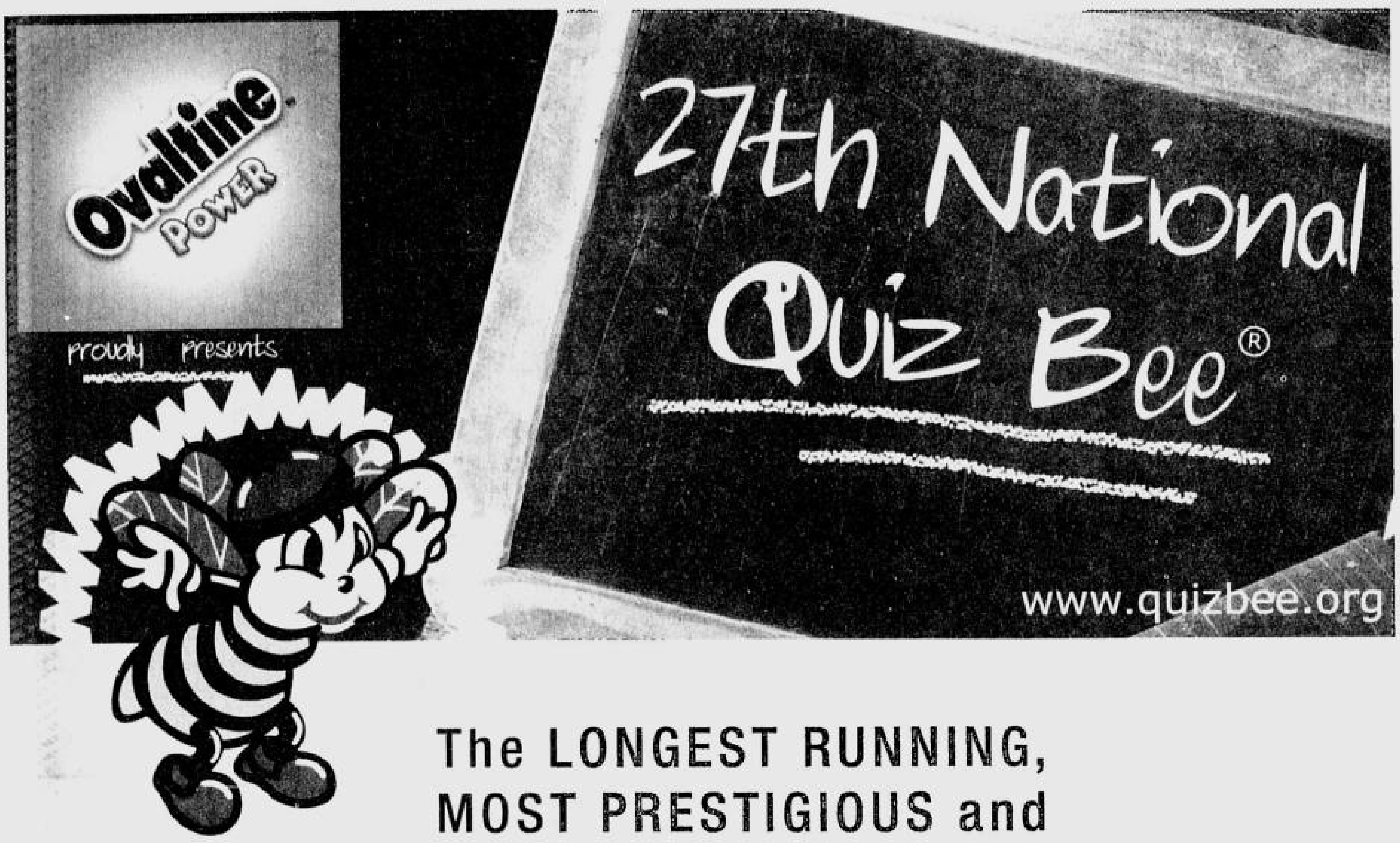

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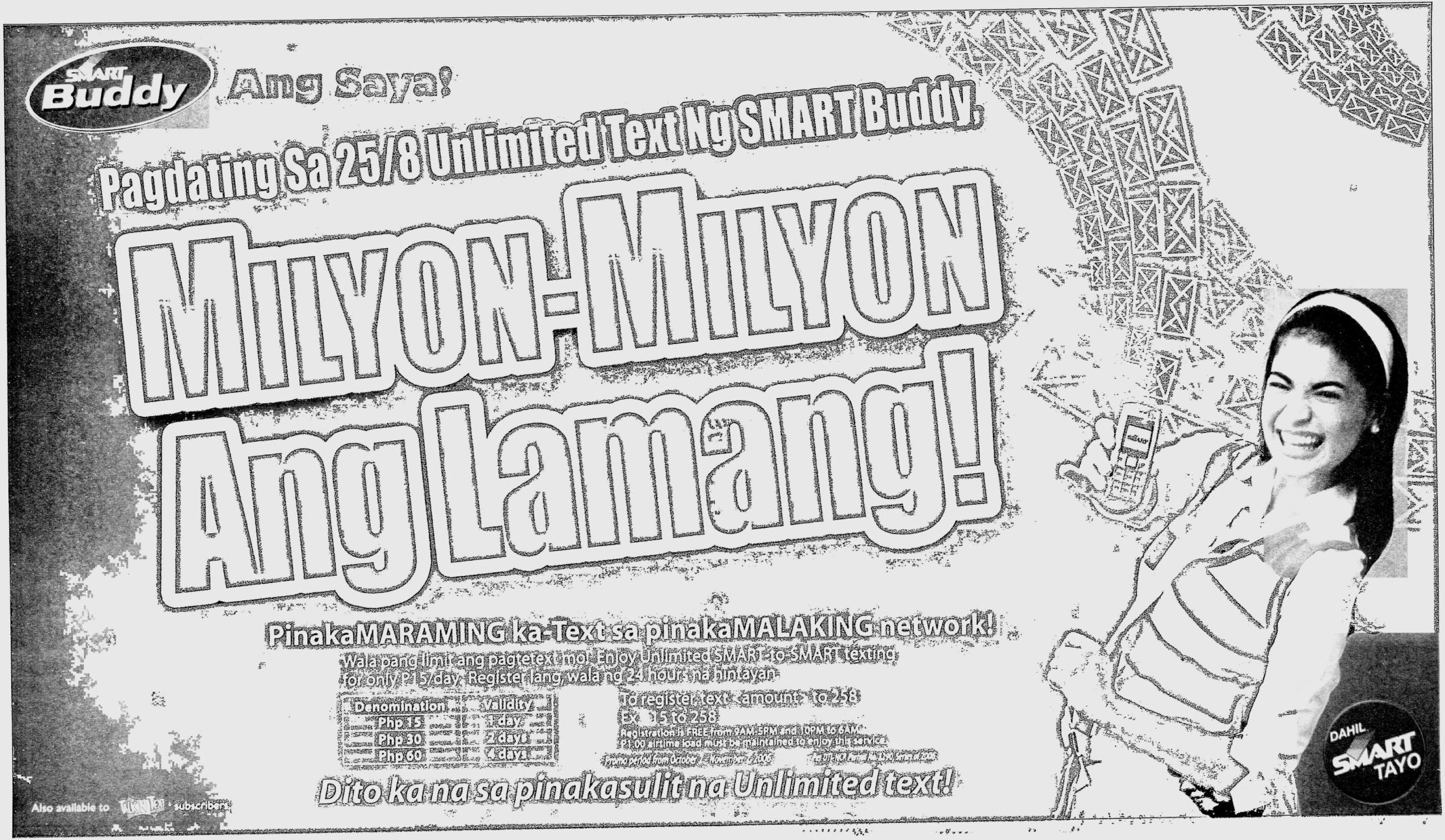

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Nursing leak nationwide; 5 new witnesses surface

From page A1

tion of the College of Nursing of the University of Sto. Tomas.

"We might actually call for a retake of all the tests. The retake should be for all [examinees], not only those from Luzon but also those from the Visayas and Mindanao," Tadle said in a phone interview.

He later issued a statement saying that the cheating in the June 11-12 nursing exam was widespread and not confined to Luzon.

Entire exam

Tadle called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to order a retake of the entire exam and by all 40,000 examinees.

"On the basis of the above [information], we call on the President to act firmly and without vacillation to order a retake of Tests III and Test V, and, if necessary, on the basis of this new evidence, order a retake of all the five tests," he said.

Tadle also appealed to Ms Arroyo "not to make this a political issue."

He said: "The NLE was compromised as a result of the leakage; do not compromise it further by listening to influence peddlers who advance a no-retake or selective retake just to gain political votes. Retake for all is the only and imperative way to restore the integrity and credibility of the [NLE] as well as all professional licensure examinations in this country.

"We also call for the resignation of all the commissioners of the Professional Regulation Commission who are responsible for this mess and who, up to this time, cling like leeches to their position."

5 witnesses secured

Tadle said one of their professors and an NBI agent traveled to Baguio three days ago after getting wind of the information on the leak of questions in Tests I and II.

He said that the five new witnesses had been "secured," and that their affidavits were submitted last night to the NBI in Manila.

Tadle quoted the five graduates as saying that they got 50 questions for each of the two tests. He said some leaked questions also appeared in the other tests.

"Equally important is the fact that the source of the leaked questions was two review centers that so far have not figured prominently in this NLE leakage controversy, but nevertheless have branches or conducted in-house reviews in the Visayas and Mindanao," he said.

He declined to name the review centers concerned.

Tadle said the leak was not confined to Luzon because the "well-known review center" involved in it had branches nationwide.

"The well-known review center involved in the controversy has different branches or subsidiaries in different parts of the country," he said.

He said that based on an advertisement that appeared in the INQUIRER on July 22, the Gapuz Review Center had produced 33 of the 70 examinees who landed in the Top 10.

Tadle also said that Gapuz provided in-house review to the Riverside College of Nursing in Bacolod City, which, he noted landed four of its students in the Top 10.

He said Eufemia Octaviano, the chair of the Board of Nursing that prepared the questions, used to be the dean of Riverside, which got a 48-percent passing rate in the NLE.

Final decision

Tadle said the leak could be nationwide because Gapuz and other review centers had centers all over the country.

Based on the ads, Gapuz has 16 centers, its subsidiary Millennium has 15, Pentagon has two, and St. Louis has 10, he said.

Malacañang, which has been criticized for its flip-flop stance on the controversy, has ordered the NBI to immediately wrap up its inquiry preparatory to a final decision by the President on the issue of the retake.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita yesterday said Ms Arroyo and her Cabinet would make the final decision after a special meeting on Tuesday.

He said he expected an announcement to be made on Tuesday or Wednesday regarding the fate of a draft executive order by Labor Secretary Arturo Brion that recommended a retake.

"There is a Cabinet meeting just on this issue on Tuesday, so we told the Department of Justice to tell the NBI to finish its report by Monday. The NBI will be asked to give a report on the result of its investigation on the leakage [on Tuesday]," Ermita told reporters.

The NBI was scheduled to submit its report on or before Oct. 15.

On Thursday, Ms Arroyo met with Ermita, Brion, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez and PRC Chair Leonor-Tripon Rosero.

"We took a look at the problem again so we can come up with a final solution," Ermita said of the meeting at the Palace.

Asked about Brion's statement on Thursday saying Ms Arroyo had sufficient powers to order a retake without waiting for the ruling of the Court of Appeals on a pending petition, Ermita quoted the labor secretary as saying that his remarks "may have been taken out of context."

"I told him to give a clarificatory statement. That's what I advised him," Ermita said.

But Ermita's disclosure that Malacañang intended to announce by next week its final decision on the controversy appeared to indicate that officials were not anymore waiting for the CA ruling.

The appellate court had earlier imposed a temporary restraining order on the mass oath-taking of the exam passers.

Gonzalez told the INQUIRER by phone that the Palace was hoping the CA would issue its ruling by next week as well.

He said he did not know whether a consensus was reached on whether to wait for the court ruling or not because he had left the meeting.

But he said he had argued that the Palace should await the ruling before coming out with an executive order.

'Wishy-washy approach'

"I THINK THAT AS A STRONG point, we would rather not defy the CA," Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said.

In a statement, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. called on Ms Arroyo to "stop playing around with the fate" of the nursing graduates who took the board exam.

"The President's flip-flopping on the issue of a retake of the exam smacks of her wishy-washy approach in resolving controversies and her insensitivity to the ordeals of the nursing graduates whose future in their chosen career is now in limbo," Pimentel said.

"Yesterday, she wanted to annul the exam. Today, she hedges. That is exactly what we see in her administration. All ad hoc, no strategic planning," he said.

Pimentel said that instead of taking the bull by the horns, Ms Arroyo was waiting for "signs as to which way the wind of public opinion blows."

But Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who has reclaimed chairmanship of the Senate civil service committee investigating the leak, welcomed Malacañang's latest decision to defer action in view of a pending case at the CA.

"It is a rare but welcome sign of good judgment on the part of Malacañang to stay on the side of prudence on this matter," he said.

But Lacson said Malacañang should get to the bottom of the leak and identify those behind it.

"It is imperative that we plug the hole, by means of legislation, to stop future leaks," he said.

Esperat killers get life terms; suspected masterminds still free

From page A1

murder Esperat because of her exposés on graft and corruption against DA officials in Mindanao.

One of the accused said they were paid P120,000 for the job.

Shortly after the verdict came down, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, in Manila, ordered state prosecutors to go after the alleged masterminds.

"The evidence shows that Ms Esperat was murdered because of her crusade against well-entrenched grafters in the DA (Department of Agriculture) Regional Field Office 12," Gonzalez said.

Esperat was killed in March last year while dining with her children inside their house in Sultan Kudarat.

She was the 91st of a total of 108 journalists murdered in the country since democracy was restored in 1986—an ugly record that has earned for the the Philippines the label of being one of the most dangerous countries in the world for journalists.

'Madame Witness'

Esperat was popularly known as "Madame Witness" because of her media exposés.

It was during her employment in DA Region 12 from 1987 to 2004 that she uncovered various cases of graft and corrupt practices by public officials involving rampant misuse of public funds intended for the alleviation of marginalized farmers.

Judge Eric Menchavez, presiding judge of RTC Branch 21, sentenced Estanislao Bismanos (alyas Jun Brown), Gerry Cabayag and Randy Grecia to reclusion perpetua—or imprisonment of from 30 to 40 years—for murder qualified by treachery.

Cabayag was found to be the gunman and Grecia the lookout in the operation.

The three had pleaded guilty.

Menchavez also ordered the three to indemnify Esperat's family in the sum of P175,000.

Alleged brains

The judge, however, acquitted Sgt. Rowie Barua, a former member of the 35th Military Intelligence Company, for insufficiency of evidence.

Barua had served as a close-in security for Estrella Sabay, chief DA accountant in Region 12.

Shortly after Esperat's murder, the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group submitted evidence implicating Sabay and Osmeña Montañer, Region 12 chief finance officer, as the alleged masterminds who offered money to the accused in return for killing Esperat.

They were linked to the murder on the basis of the extrajudicial confessions of the accused.

But Sabay and Montañer were later dropped from the case on what the Department of Justice said was a technicality.

In black shirts

Esperat was president of the Region 12 Tri-Media Association, publisher of Midland review and a broadcaster.

She was shot in the head with a 45-cal. pistol around 7:30 p.m. on March 24, 2005 inside her house at Tanio Subdivision, New Isabella in Tacurong City.

The victim's family expressed dismay over the non-prosecution of the two supposed masterminds.

Esperat's husband, her four children and other relatives wore black shirts printed with the words, "Justice for Marlene Esperat."

They showed no reaction when the court handed down its verdict but their comments later showed their dismay.

Masterminds

Husband George Esperat said justice could have been given to his wife had those who ordered the killing been convicted, too.

"It (the decision) isn't good because it was only them (who were convicted). The masterminds should have been included," he said in Filipino. "I am not naming names but the ones who issued the order should have been charged, too, and convicted."

"(I feel) disappointed … Those who issued the order should really be convicted."

Arcones told the INQUIRER her family hoped the masterminds would be prosecuted and convicted immediately.

Private prosecutor Nena Santos said her team had filed a motion before the court asking it to reinstate Sabay and Montañer as among the accused.

The court has scheduled the hearing on their motion for Oct. 10, Santos said.

In a telephone interview, Gonzalez said he had ordered prosecutors to file a motion with the Cebu City Regional Trial Court to reinstate Montañer and Sabay in the case.

Something fishy

"What happened was the case against these two were dropped by the judge who later inhibited himself from the case. Something fishy went on there," he said. "So I ordered the masterminds to be reinstated and as well as other people not yet identified."

Gonzalez said the two were dropped from the case, which was first heard in the Sultan Kudarat Regional Trial Court, on grounds of technicality.

But Gonzalez said "evidence adduced during the trial of the three gunmen indicated their direct involvement in Marlene's murder."

Warrants of arrest

"I have also directed the prosecutors … to ask for the issuance of warrants of arrest so that they can be brought to court for trial. I am also directing the Bureau of Immigration to include them in our watch list pending the issuance of an HDO (hold-departure order)," Gonzalez added.

Jose Fabia, executive director of the Philippine Press Institute, welcomed the court's decision and the prosecution's move to get after the masterminds.

Fabia attended the promulgation of the decision.

In his 15-page order, Menchavez said there was no question on the admissibility of the extrajudicial statements made by the three accused admitting responsibility for the crime.

Contact man

Records of the case showed that during the rearraignment, Grecia, Bismanos and Cabayag withdrew their earlier plea and, instead, pleaded guilty to the crime.

Barua, who later applied as a state witness, executed an extrajudicial statement saying that sometime in February 2005, he met Bismanos, a childhood friend, and was told about Sabay's alleged plan to liquidate Esperat.

In his statement, Barua said he served as the contact supposedly between Bismanos' group and his boss for the payment of P120,000.

But acting Judge Francis Palmones Jr. of RTC Tacurong City dismissed the case against the two supposed masterminds.

The prosecution has since asked for a reconsideration of the order of dismissal.

Children testified

In his decision, Menchavez noted that there was sufficient evidence that "they deliberately and consciously adopted the means of execution employed by them."

The judge also took note of the money promised in return for Esperat's murder.

Two of the victim's children, Kevin, 14 and Rhynche testified how Cabayag shot their mother while they were having dinner.

When asked by the INQUIRER, the three accused said they regretted killing Esperat. They also said they confessed to the killing out of sense of guilt and hope that the court would be lenient with them.

Press freedom

The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines welcomed the verdict.

"It's a victory for press freedom," said NUJP chair Jose Torres Jr.

"We appreciate the immediate action of Secretary Gonzalez to order the prosecution of the alleged masterminds of the killing," Torres added.

"We hope it would be the start of a serious pursuit for the resolution of other media killings."

Important victory

The Southeast Asian Press Alliance also cheered the verdict.

"This is an important victory that, if followed through and allowed to create momentum, can hopefully stem the tide of journalist killings in the Philippines," SEAPA executive director Roby Alampay wrote from Bangkok where SEAPA is based.

"There is an environment of impunity that is encouraging attacks on journalists and human rights workers in the Philippines, and without positive developments, such as what we now have in the Esperat case, that climate can only worsen." *With a report from Aquiles Zonio, Inquirer Mindanao*

6 'home-alone' kids die in Taytay fire; parents not allowed to attend burial

From page A1

All because of some legal niceties they couldn't satisfy.

Police officials would not allow them to temporarily leave detention, even with escorts from the national and the local police, because of the absence of a court order.

In obedience to Muslim practice, relatives were forced to bury the six children within the day, even without Faudzia and Ton around.

"They had accepted what happened. But the bigger pain was that they did not even see their children even for the last time," Ton's elder brother, Thong, told the INQUIRER after the burial rites yesterday afternoon.

Ton's two sons by his previous wife and his 15-year-old niece, Baby Lyn, who had been looking after the children in his and his wife's absence, managed to bolt out of the house unharmed.

The fire that broke out inside the house in Barangay Sta. Ana about 2 a.m. yesterday was sparked by a candle the children had lit following a power cutoff.

Four hours earlier, the children were still watching television. Then power went out.

Night of the fire

Although some houses across the street had electricity, the children decided to go to bed.

Since Ton and Faudzia were arrested in August, the children's aunt Norambay and their niece Baby Lyn had been looking after the children.

On the night of the fire, however, Norambay had to leave for Cotabato City.

She left Faudzia's five children, together with a playmate, on the upper floor of the wooden house.

At some point, according to accounts from those who survived, the children lit a candle.

Ton's two other sons, 11-year-old Akmad and 8-year-old Ismael, were in the sala. With them was a family friend, Aldrin Gandao, 27, who was waiting to accompany Norambay.

Gandao said the two boys would have also slept on the upper floor if not for their aunt's scheduled trip.

Norambay and Gandao left the house minutes before the fire broke out. The flames started in the upper room, where the five other children were.

Baby Lyn, who was sleeping on the porch to escape the heat, quickly woke up Akmad and Ismael.

Devouring flames

"The fire was already very big when we woke up. We tried going to the bedroom (on the upper floor) but the stairs collapsed," Ismael told the INQUIRER in Filipino.

Fire quickly spread, devouring the wooden walls and the curtains.

In a futile attempt to put out the blaze, neighbors in the crowded Lupang Arenda neighborhood rushed to scoop floodwater, which had formed a pool on the dirt road, using pails and basins.

The commotion woke up 35-year-old Marissa Dioso. Fear quickly seized her: Her youngest and only daughter, Manases, was inside the burning house.

Marissa worked as a helper for the Daud family and the children were very close to her daughter.

Her husband Nelson, 44, also tried to get inside the blazing house. But the flames had grown bigger.

SFO2 Frank Marcelo said firefighters managed to douse the fire at 3:30 a.m.

Ton and Faudzia's children—Alzaman, 7; Arman, 6; Alia, 4; Ali, 3, and Alvin, 2—were burned along with Dioso's daughter, Manases, 9.

Together in death

"These children are very dear to me. They treated me like their own mother," said Marissa, who lived just two houses away. "They would eat lunch in my house. They would ask for my help in their assignments." She said Alzaman, Akmad and Ismael were Grade 1 pupils at the Greenhomes Elementary School while her daughter Manases was a Grade 2 student at the Nagpayong Elementary School in Pasig City.

Manases had been preparing for a group folk dance competition, scheduled for anytime this week, should the power supply at the school be restored.

Marissa said she had already prepared a skirt made of crepe paper which Manases would use for the contest.

"Nobody will use it anymore," she said.

Covered with white cloth

After the fire, neighbors retrieved dolls, school bags and lunch boxes from the scene.

Children's clothes, blackened with ashes, still hung on the porch, where three children's bikes were also parked.

The remains of the six children were brought to the mosque in front of the house and covered with white cloth.

Akmad and Ismael sat meters away as neighbors and classmates took turns in keeping vigil inside the mosque, where exactly a week ago, the bodies of three siblings who drowned during Typhoon "Milenyo" had been also laid.

Around noon, relatives went to Camp Crame to request that the grieving parents be allowed to go to the mosque and attend the burial rites.

Waiting for nothing

Local officials also phoned the police to make the same request.

Four hours later, the parents sent a text message to a relative, saying the burial should go ahead: They would not be able to attend.

"The police made us wait for nothing," Ton's brother Thong said.

"They should have told us that we would need a court order much earlier so we could have worked it out and get one instead of waiting for nothing," he added.

Reunions

Marissa said the children were very close to their parents and that she always brought them to court during preliminary hearings of the parents' cases.

The last hearing was on Wednesday afternoon—the last time the family was together.

"I will miss them a lot," Marissa said.

"I know they are already happy because wherever they are, I know they are still together," she said, fighting her tears.

IN THE KNOW

Burial in 24 hours

THE ISLAMIC PRACTICE OF burying the dead as soon as possible is a tradition that goes as far back as the time of the prophet Muhammad, says Dr. Mashur Bin-Ghalib Jundam, dean of the University of the Philippines Institute of Islamic Studies.

Jundam explains that Muslims see no reason to prolong burials.

"When a person dies, his or her spirit leaves the body. The body becomes only a physical shell. Why should it remain unburied?" he asks.

Taha Basman, president of the Philippine Islamic Council, says Muslims usually bury their dead within 24 hours of their passing.

"Immediate interment symbolizes the Muslims' desire to reunite with the Creator in the soonest possible time," he adds.

Although Islamic funeral practices vary among different cultures, Muslims follow the basic traditions of washing, shrouding, praying for and burying their dead.

Muslims traditionally do not embalm their dead. *Cyril L. Bonabente, INQUIRER Research*

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Mother's long search ends in shallow grave

By Anselmo Roque
Inquirer Central Luzon

SAN JOSE, NUEVA ECIJA—A MOTHER'S ALmost four-year search for her missing daughter ended in a shallow grave in a mountain village outside this city.

Tarcila Ramos, 50, wept when she recognized the underwear that came with the skeletal remains that were dug up in Barangay Kaliwanagan. She knew it belonged to her 19-year-old daughter, Kathlyn, a student activist at the Central Luzon State University who went missing in 2002.

Ramos, a Cabanatuan City resident, said other items that were shown to her by the Nueva Ecija police crime laboratory "looked familiar."

A rebel returnee who acted as a guide for a group of policemen, soldiers and reporters that went to the grave site recently, said Kathlyn was ordered killed by leaders of the communist New People's Army of Nueva Ecija. He said she was suspected of being a military agent because one of her relatives was a soldier.

The grave site, already overgrown with weeds, was in a rugged part of the Sierra Madre mountain range, about 6 km from the city proper, and reached only after a two-hour hike through a winding trail.

Lt. Col. Joselito Kakilala, commanding officer of the 48th Infantry Battalion, and Supt. Peter Quibong, the city police chief, who led the military and police team, said Kathlyn was a victim of the Communist Party purges that have targeted suspected government agents in the movement.

The rebel returnee, whose identity is being withheld, said it was he who dug the two-foot-deep grave on orders of the NPA commanders in Nueva Ecija.

Kakilala said it was the rebel returnee's disclosure about the execution of Kathlyn that led them to seek Ramos in Cabanatuan City.

Ramos said she last saw her daughter alive on Oct. 13, 2002. She said Kathlyn had left the house that day without telling her where she was going or who she was going to meet.

She said her daughter was "very secretive" about her activities in and out of school.

It was only later that she learned that Kathlyn had joined the League of Filipino Students, a militant student organization, while she was enrolled at the CLSU in the Science City of Muñoz.

Kakilala said the LFS was a "student front" of the NPA.

Kathlyn was enrolled in an animal husbandry course and was planning on taking up veterinary medicine after finishing her first degree, Ramos said.

"My daughter's only fault maybe was she joined a militant organization to fight for what she thought was right and to help in airing grievances so our society will improve," she said.

The rebel returnee said Kathlyn was taken by a group of NPA rebels to Guimba, Nueva Ecija, on Oct. 20, 2002.

From Guimba, the group trekked for almost a week through the mountains to reach an NPA camp in Barangay Kaliwanagan here. San Jose City is 40 km from the town of Guimba.

On Oct. 27, the rebel returnee said he was directed by NPA leaders to dig a grave in an area in Kaliwanagan.

He said he saw Kathlyn at the NPA camp when he returned after completing the task.

While he did not see the actual execution, he said he saw the girl being led by the group to the area where he had dug the grave.

The rebel returnee said he learned later that Kathlyn was "executed" by NPA rebels led by Leopoldo Caluza, the former NPA commander in Nueva Ecija.

Caluza, according to military reports, is now a top commander of the NPA in Central Luzon.

The NPA group also included a certain "Ka Jordan" and "Ka Iro" and at least 30 other people, the rebel returnee said.

Asked if she would be interested in bringing criminal charges against her daughter's killers, Ramos said: "*Bahala na po ang Panginoon sa kanila* (Let the Lord deal with them)."

MOTHER'S ANGUISH. Tarcila Ramos of Cabanatuan City (right) identifies the clothing found on the skeletal remains of what appeared to be her daughter, Kathlyn.
ANSELMO ROQUE / INQUIRER CENTRAL LUZON

5 bullet-riddled bodies found in Tarlac, N. Ecija

CAMP OLIVAS, PAMPANGA—THE LIST OF victims of mysterious summary executions is getting longer. Five bodies riddled with bullets were found yesterday in two areas at the boundary of Victoria, Tarlac, and Guimba, Nueva Ecija.

Three bodies—two women and a man—were found along the Licab-Victoria Road in Barangay Agcano, Guimba, at about 5:30 a.m. Police identified them as Jenny Egpas of Tandag, Surigao Sur; Ailenee Anib of Paginag, Balagtas, Bulacan; and Felix Galinzuga of Pasay City.

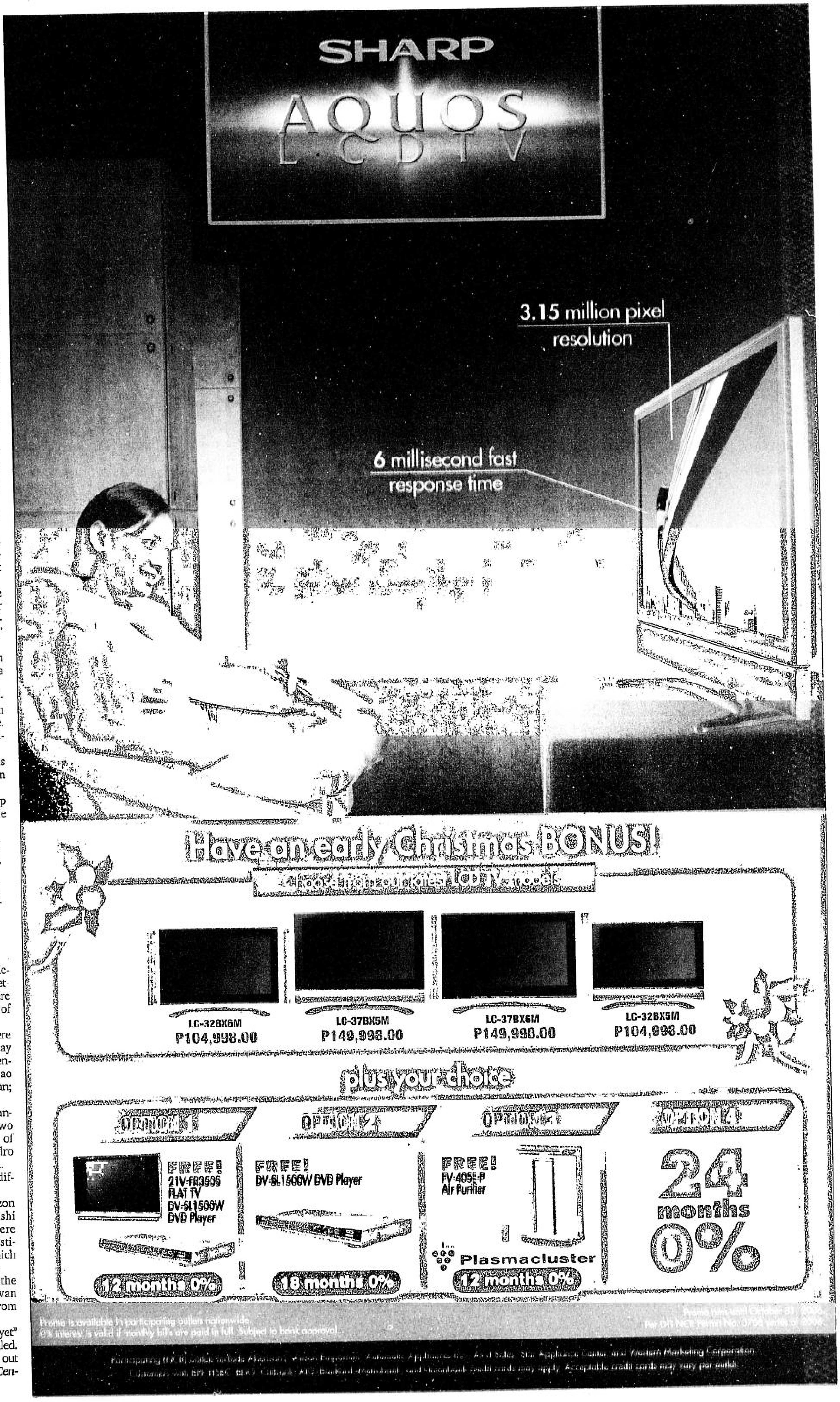
Dumped about 400 meters away, in Barangay Mangulago in Victoria, Tarlac, were two more bodies identified as Nelson Palana of Bagong Silang, Caloocan City and Isidro Marzan of San Nicolas, Gapan, Nueva Ecija.

The bodies all bore gunshot wounds in different parts of their bodies.

Chief Supt. Ismael Rafanan, Central Luzon police director, said an abandoned Mitsubishi L-300 van was recovered near the area where the bodies were seen. Inside the van, investigators found a sheet of yellow pad on which the five names of the victims were written.

Police are trying to trace the owners of the vehicle. So far, they have found that the van last took a RORO (roll-on-roll-off) ride from the port of Surigao.

Rafanan said investigators have "no idea yet" who killed the victims or why they were killed. Preliminary reports, however, seemed to rule out robbery or rape. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon and Alcuin Papa*



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Abrupt ending catches 'Nicole' by surprise

By DJ Yap

THE ABRUPT END ON THURSDAY of the Subic rape case caught "Nicole" herself by surprise, and left her regretting the lost chance to be heard again in open court.

"I thought we could still regain lost ground during the rebuttal," she told the INQUIRER yesterday, adding that she had prepared herself to take the stand again.

"I thought that if we would be able to answer all their lies, it would help our case. I wished we had more time to strengthen the case," she said.

Nicole's private lawyer Evalyn Ursua said they were "taken aback" when they learned that the state prosecutors had decided to forego the planned rebuttal.

The only factor

Ursua said the move was "in retaliation" for the affidavits earlier filed by Nicole's mother and brother claiming that Senior State Prosecutor Emilie Fe de los Santos had pushed for a settlement with the four accused US Marines, including the opportunity to migrate to the United States.

"We were scheduled to recall agents Tony Ramos and Guy Papageorge of the US Naval Criminal Investigative Services to the stand," Ursua said. "The only factor that changed in the equation was the filing of the affidavits."

The two affidavits filed before the Department of Justice detailed the allegations of Nicole's mother and brother that De los Santos had tried to persuade them to settle the case.

The documents included De los Santos' purported warning that if a settlement was not reached, Nicole's case might be traded off with that of former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn Bolante, the purported architect of the P728-million fertilizer fund scam who is now detained in the United States.

Still hopeful

Nevertheless, Nicole, now 23, expressed confidence that the prosecution had presented sufficient evidence.

"I'm still hopeful that we will win. I don't even want to think about losing," she said.

Ursua said she and her client were left with no more course of action to keep the trial going.

She said they had been considering many scenarios on how to put Nicole back on the stand, while maintaining their position that they had no trust in the state prosecutors.

"They had control over the case. De los Santos excluded us from participating in the [examination of] defense evidence. We weren't even allowed to cross-examine," Ursua said, adding:

"If [state prosecutors] are doing a good job, private prosecutors are redundant. But if not, that's when we step in."

Citing the waiving of the planned rebuttal, Ursua said that if the state prosecutors did not want to present Papageorge or Ramos, "the private prosecutors could have done it for them."

People of the Philippines

In the past, stung by Nicole's accusation that the state prosecutors were incompetent, De los Santos had said that the complainant was no longer Nicole but the people of the Philippines.

But Ursua said yesterday: "They tell us that the complainant is now the people of the Philippines, and not Nicole, who is only a witness. But the question is, who's taking up the cudgels for the people of the Philippines?"

Prosecutor assails superior for no rebuttal in Subic rape case

From page A1

count the possibility that the decision had something to do with their (Nicole and Ursua's) reiteration of the request to replace the panel."

Asked whether she could face the consequences of her decision to oppose the stand of her colleagues, she said: "I am ready. This is all about standing up for what I believe is right. Besides, it's not only the Department of Justice that needs lawyers."

A mother of three, the 32-year-old Valdez has been with the DOJ for a year and two months. She had spent five years with the Public Attorney's Office and roughly a year with a private law firm.

Around noon Thursday

Valdez said that the state panel decided on the waiver of rebuttal on Wednesday afternoon, and that she learned about it only "around noontime" on Thursday.

At around 1 p.m. Thursday, the Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 139 received by fax the panel's manifestation informing the court that it had dispensed with the planned rebuttal.

The document lacked Valdez's signature.

The state panel's decision closed the four-month-long trial within the same hour, and Judge Benjamin Pozon tentatively scheduled the reading of his verdict on Nov. 27.

Valdez told the INQUIRER that she "took offense" at belatedly receiving information on the dropping of the rebuttal, and personally asked De los Santos: "Don't you think we owe it to the complainant to inform her?"

De los Santos, who once called Nicole and her mother "ingrates," purportedly replied: "I don't care."

The state panel had planned to recall to the stand agents Tony Ramos and Guy Papageorge of the US Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) in light of the testimonies of accused Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith and Staff Sgt. Chad Carpentier.

Smith, accused of raping Nicole on the back seat of a moving van in the Subic Bay Freeport on Nov. 1, 2005, as Carpentier, and Lance Corporals Dominic Duplantis and Keith Silkwood purportedly egged him on, had told the court that the NCIS "misquoted" his narration of what had happened in the van.

Carpentier had said an NCIS report on his statement on the purported rape bore minor discrepancies.

De los Santos could not be reached for comment yesterday.

But in a previous interview, she said the panel decided to forego the rebuttal because the two NCIS agents had already shown that they had no reason to file an inaccurate report on the statements of the accused.

Justified

Asked yesterday to comment, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said the four other state prosecutors were justified in their decision to allow the case to rest without rebuttal.

"You know, a rebuttal witness can work for or against them. The presentation of a rebuttal testimony can go either way because you are not sure what, for example, the defense has on a witness," Gonzalez said.

He added: "Let's take this particular case. The prosecution wants to recall the NCIS agents. But suppose [the agents] modify their testimony? You can never be 100-percent sure that because you recalled a witness, he will say something favorable."

According to Gonzalez, the prosecutors believed that the evidence they presented was strong, and thus decided to stick with what they have.

"That was the reason—they have assessed it and they decided to not anymore disturb the findings because it might actually do more harm than good. They thought it's OK already. Why disturb it? Why give the defense a chance, another opening, to hit back at you?" he said.

Gonzalez also denied that Valdez had been left out of the decision to waive the rebuttal: "Valdez walked out because she disagreed with the assessment of the four [other prosecutors] that the evidence was sufficient. It is not true that she was not part of the decision process. She was there, but she walked out."

Real reason

Valdez said she had spoken with De los Santos because she wanted to know the real reason behind the decision to waive the rebuttal.

She said she even met with Ramos and Papageorge on Wednesday "to prepare them" for their recall to the stand.

"I wanted to give [the other prosecutors] the benefit of the doubt. I wasn't convinced that the reason was there was no need anymore [for a rebuttal]," she said.

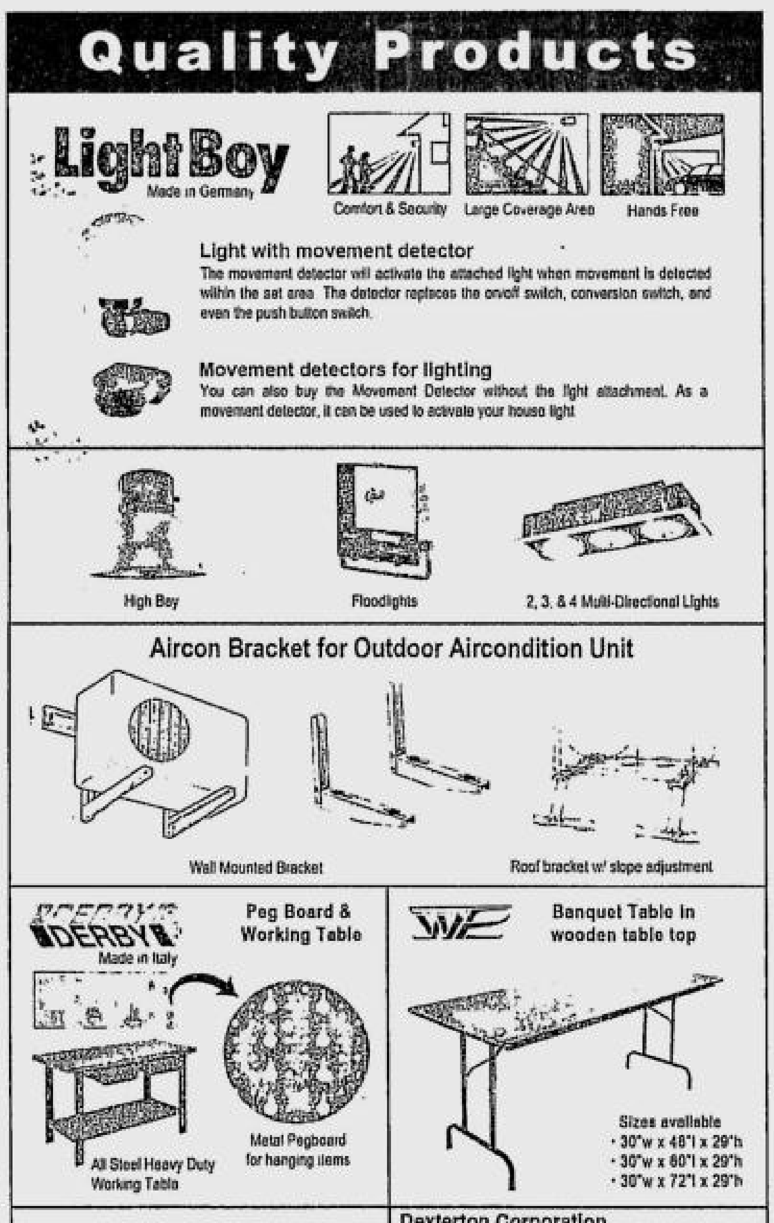
Valdez said that when she got wind of the waiver of rebuttal, she was midway in negotiating with Ursua on how the panel could recall Nicole to the stand to assert her version of the purported rape, to which Smith had a starkly contrasting narration in court.

Nicole and her mother had earlier publicly accused De los Santos of proposing a settlement of the case, and of telling them that the families of the accused were aware of the proposal.

No settlement

De los Santos had denied the allegations. Smith had likewise said he would rather clear his name than settle with the complainant.

Nicole had also accused the state prosecutors of incompetence, and asked Gonzalez to replace them except Valdez. *With a report from Armand N. Nocum*



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Electricity spot market goes on despite probe

From page A1

calls by business leaders to temporarily suspend the wholesale electricity spot market (WESM) until the government can assure participants of fair market trading.

"Don't prejudge, we have to investigate and everything will come out. Let's not preempt the investigation, there are rules and procedures for this," said Lotilla.

The Philippine Electricity Market Corp. (PEMC), the operator of the electricity bourse, announced on Thursday that it was investigating PSALM which it suspected of using its 50-percent control of the country's total generating capacity to push prices up.

PSALM has denied the allegation which centered on the soaring prices since the spot market opened in late June.

Lotilla said it was too early to accuse anybody of wrongdoing.

He said there was no need to close the WESM either as investigations were a normal part of operations.

"It's just like in the stock market. Whenever there is a complaint of manipulation they investigate and deal with it accordingly but they don't shut the entire exchange down," Lotilla said.

He said the government was "allowing the processes and mechanisms under WESM rules to take their due course" with regard to the ongoing investigation by the PEMC.

The WESM rules provide for sufficient safeguards and mechanisms to ensure the integrity of the spot market operations, he said.

The allegation of price manipulation against PSALM has agitated the business community which immediately called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to scuttle the WESM.

Francis Chua, president of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce, said there was no point in the WESM continuing if its trading would remain under a cloud of doubt.

"It's better that WESM be suspended until the probers have cleared the air," said Chua.

Businessman Raul T. Concepcion said WESM would remain suspect until the government completes the privatization of the National Power Corp. and sell its transmission and power generation facilities to competing private parties.

"The government must privatize Napocor first before it allows the WESM to operate," Concepcion said.

Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Donald Dee said energy officials must not sacrifice public interest to make power assets such as the National Transmission Co. "juicy to investors in their bid to privatize the state corporation."

The President had lobbied for the creation of the WESM in hopes that competition between suppliers would enable buyers to choose the best prices.

One of the biggest buyers of power in the WESM is the Manila Electric Co., the country's biggest electricity distributor which sources 45 to 50 percent of its requirements from the spot market, said Lotilla.

Lotilla shrugged off criticisms that suspicions of price manipulation would undermine the President's bid to reduce the cost of power.

"We are in the learning stage. The President is letting the existing structures take care of the situation," he said.

PEMC president Lasse Holopainen said there would be a 45-day investigation, which started last Tuesday when the notice was served on PSALM.

He explained that the PEMC's market surveillance team noticed price spikes during the WESM's third trading month (Aug. 26 to Sept. 25). The team was however unable to find any external factor to which the price spikes could be attributed.

This prompted suspicion to fall on PSALM, which controls 50 percent of the total power capacity traded in the market.

Given the huge capacity that PSALM controlled, it had "market power," which could be abused to control prices, explained Holopainen.

He said PSALM was the "price-setter" when the price spikes took place.

PSALM president Nieves Osorio denied any "concerted and deliberate efforts to manipulate electricity prices" by its four trading teams.

"Bid prices are influenced by several factors, among them the cost of producing electricity, which varies from plant to plant," she said, adding that she welcomed the investigation.

Apart from being mandated to dispose of Napocor's generation assets, PSALM also manages the state firm's independent power producer (IPP) contracts until these can be transferred to IPP administrators.

PSALM thus controls half of the volume traded in the WESM through its four trading teams. Napocor controls only 20 percent of traded capacity.

Militant groups yesterday called for a congressional probe of allegations of price manipulation at the WESM and for the abolition of the electricity bourse.

The Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) fisherfolk group said it should be legislators, not the PEMC that should investigate PSALM.

While the investigation was going on, the operations of WESM and even of PSALM should be suspended, said Pamalakaya national chair Fernando Hicap.

He said Congress should not only focus on PSALM but extend the probe to other WESM participants, including 30 power plants and 13 power distributors in Luzon.

Bagong Alyansang Makabayan secretary general Renato Reyes Jr., for his part, said there was no use for the WESM as it had not lived up to its promise of promoting transparency in the sector and of bringing down power rates.

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Imelda wins graft case; 75 to go

From page A1

Marcos' coaccused Jose Conrado "Jolly" Benitez.

After the ruling, Marcos, wearing a purple skirt, a long tunic jacket and a silk floral scarf with large jade and diamond earrings, went to the nearby St. Peter's Church on Commonwealth Avenue to pray. She later handed out money to street vendors. She was accompanied by Benitez and lawyers Robert Sison and Benjamin Santos.

Marcos and Benitez, then minister and deputy minister of human settlements, respectively, were accused of violating the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act for allegedly pocketing money from housing and realty business transactions through the Technology Resource Center Foundation Inc. which they set up in 1977, while still members of the Cabinet.

It was alleged that Marcos and Benitez had business interests in TRCFI when they acted as the foundation's chairman and president, respectively, in alleged violation of the 1973 Constitution.

The court, however, ruled that state prosecutors had failed to establish "the essential element of the offense charged."

FORMER first lady Imelda Marcos leaves St. Peter's Church on Commonwealth Ave. after prayers, following the Sandiganbayan's ruling. She distributed money to street vendors. REUTERS

Nonstock, nonprofit

"As disclosed by evidence, it had technologically transferred projects as its principal concern or occupation basically aimed at addressing human settlement issues. They were undertaken, definitely not for profit but solely for the purpose of generating funds to sustain the main projects of the foundation," the Sandiganbayan said.

Court records showed that the TRCFI, organized in 1977, was a nonstock, nonprofit organization engaged in activities geared toward countryside development, principally through projects involving technology transfer. One such project was an innovation in the breeding of tilapia that was introduced to the communities around Taal Lake and Laguna Lake.

Since the foundation was "nonstock and nonprofit," the court said, there was no conflict of interest when Marcos and Benitez acted as its executives even while they were still members of the Cabinet.

And while TRCFI made investments in real estate by leasing land and buildings, and selling townhouses, the Sandiganbayan said the money raised did not benefit foundation officials.

No deal

"The essential elements of the offense charged have not been proven as discussed above because the projects in question, not being businesses in contemplation of law," it added in its 36-page decision.

Marcos said her acquittal had nothing to do with any compromise with the Arroyo administration.

"I have always said that I don't want a compromise. I wanted a legal resolution because I believe in the courage and integrity of our courts," she said.

Audit

Marcos also called on the government to conduct an audit on all corporations that were created or were under her Ministry of Human Settlements during the rule of her husband, former President Ferdinand Marcos.

"I ask the Philippine government not only to conduct an audit of the TRCFI, but also my other projects when I was still Minister of Human Settlements," she said in a statement released to media.

This was the only way to reveal who the "real thieves are," she added.

Marcos, known for her collection of 1,200 pairs of shoes, said that the TRCFI barely had any funds left.

"In 1986 when the late Ferdinand Marcos and family were illegally and forcibly taken out to a foreign country, the TRCFI [had] about P400 million. Now I was just informed that [it] has hardly any funds left," she said.

"Where did the money go?"

Lucky breaks

Although Marcos faces criminal and civil suits over billions of dollars in unexplained wealth amassed during her husband's 20-year rule, she is not in detention due to hundreds of thousands of pesos in bail bonds.

The 77-year-old widow of the former strongman is also facing hundreds of cases accusing her of illegally transferring millions of US dollars overseas.

Marcos was found guilty of corruption in 1993 when she was sentenced to up to 24 years for her alleged role in anomalous deals involving the construction of a mass transit system in Manila but that decision was reversed by the Supreme Court in 1998.

On her birthday in 1991, a New York court also found her innocent on racketeering charges.

With Alcuin Papa, AP, Reuters

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Gov't loses ₱25-B tax evasion case vs Lucio Tan

From page A1

dummy corporations to act as buyers of Fortune's cigarette products to make it appear that these were sold lower than the actual price.

By employing dummy corporations, Fortune and the nine companies committed evasion of value-added taxes and ad valorem taxes covering the period 1990 to 1992, the BIR alleged.

The tax evasion case was filed in 1993 when Liwayway Vinzons-Chato was internal revenue commissioner.

9 corporations

The nine corporations, which were also charged in the tax evasion case, include Townsman Commercial, Landmark Sales and Marketing, Crimson Croker Distributors, Dagupan Combined Commodities, First Union Trading Corp., Carl & Sons, Omar Distributors, Oriel & Co., and Mt. Matutum Marketing Corp.

"This court doubts whether any person, be rich or poor, can be criminally convicted on an extrapolation based on pure assumptions or an individual's imagination, for otherwise, the presumption of innocence which is at the core of our criminal justice system would lose its sense of value and sensible attribute," the court said.

The BIR, using articles of incorporation as evidence, said that officers of the alleged dummy corporations were employees of Fortune.

The defense, however, claimed that they were former employees who had formed their own companies.

'Mother of all tax cases'

BIR assistant commissioner Estela Sales, who is in charge of the Tan case, said the revenue agency would confer with the Office of the Solicitor General and the Department of Justice on whether to continue to pursue what has be called "the mother of all tax cases."

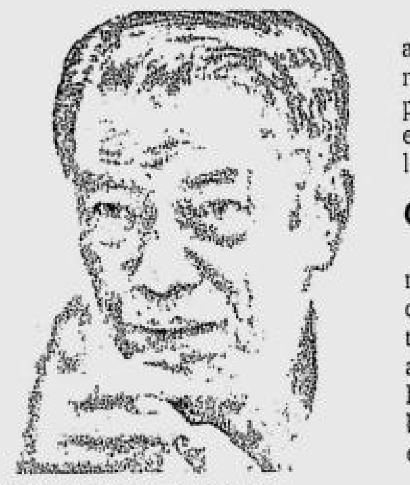
BIR Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag said the agency would consult its lawyers to study whether to file an appeal with the Court of Appeals or the Supreme Court.

Defense lawyer Estelito Mendoza said, however, that the BIR could no longer seek any other legal means to pursue the tax evasion case, as that would constitute double jeopardy.

"Under the Rules of Court, the judge's decision to grant a demurrer is final and executory. The prosecution has no right to appeal, nor can they even move for a reconsideration of the order because it will violate the principle of double jeopardy," he said.

Second dismissal

This is the second time that the Marikina Metropolitan Court has dismissed the case. It did so in 1999 but reopened it after the Supreme Court ordered a retrial.



LUCIO TAN: No reversal of Fortune

"This tax case started 13 years ago. The road to justice took a long trip. Fortunately, the defense was able to show that the [prosecution's] allegations do not have any factual or evidentiary basis," Mendoza said.

Tan, who also controls Philippine Airlines and the Philippine National Bank, is the richest person in the Philippines after shopping mall magnate Henry Sy, with a worth estimated by Forbes magazine at $1.7 billion.

Other victories

Various governments since the Marcos regime have tried to punish him for his allegedly lucrative links to the dictator, but with little success.

The reclusive billionaire has won victories against the government in the lower courts, the Sandiganbayan anti-graft court and the Supreme Court.

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Aussie MPs laud RP strength: Its people

By Michael Lim Ubac

IN THE EYES OF AUSSIE PARLIAmentarians, the Philippines' strength lies in its people.

The report by the Australian Political Exchange Council (Apec), which visited several of the country's key cities from July to August this year, described the Philippines as "a proud, strong country made up of intelligent and hard-working people at all levels."

It was in the town of Loboc, Bohol, home to the famed Loboc River, where the delegates found the "true qualities of the Filipino people—generous hospitality and great talent."

"We were greeted by the local officials and treated to a beautiful performance of songs from the internationally recognized local children's choir," the report said.

The choir's performance was truly world-class and inspiring, it noted, adding: "It is hard to imagine, as an outsider, that a small town in rural Philippines can host such great talent."

It is a "nation facing a number of challenges but also many opportunities and natural advantages none of which the least would be its strength in its people," it said.

The Aussie delegation was impressed by the "renowned reputation of the Philippine people for their hospitality, warmth and genuine sincerity" and highlighted the need for Australia to take a "greater interest in the democratic process, economic matters and other exchanges that can be shared between our nations."

The report was signed by delegation leader, Bernie Ripoll, MP [member of parliament] Federal Member for Oxley, and submitted to the Australian parliament. The INQUIRER was also furnished a copy.

First visit

Although it was the Australian leaders' first visit to the Philippines, it was a great opportunity to understand the Filipino people, its history, culture and economics.

Matters such as democracy, freedom of religion and association, human rights, housing availability, poverty and the many other issues that face the nation at different levels were central to many of the discussions.

The delegation was made up of a bipartisan group of representatives from the Australian Labor Party, Liberal Party of Australia, National Party and the Apec.

The Philippine Council of Young Political Leaders founded by Sen. Francis Pangilinan served as the host.

They visited Manila, Tagaytay, Bohol and Cebu, and met with legislators and officials from all levels of government.

Shopping malls

The group also visited Intramuros, Malacañang Palace, the Senate and House of Representatives which gave the delegates "a deeper understanding of the rich history of the Philippines," the report said.

They found it "extremely fortunate" to visit the enormous SM Mall of Asia which "demonstrated Manila's balancing of its historic past with the needs of a modern, international city."

If anything can be said of the unique thing that makes up a nation, for the Philippine people it would have to be shopping malls, the report said. "They are a modern vibrant outlet that would be the envy of most in the west or more developed nations and are a reminder of the many cultural similarities that exist between nations and peoples."

Love for music

The Philippines' love for music and song was "one of the wonderful and enchanting characteristics" of the nation, a "delightful national obsession [which] is as much part of daily life as eating and breathing."

The delegation also visited Bohol's famous Chocolate Hills and the region's beautiful beaches and resorts. They marvelled at the sight of a tarsier described in the report as "a small, cuddly mammal."

The delegates also appreciated the "open and frank nature" of discussions with local officials and elected representatives.

Text capital

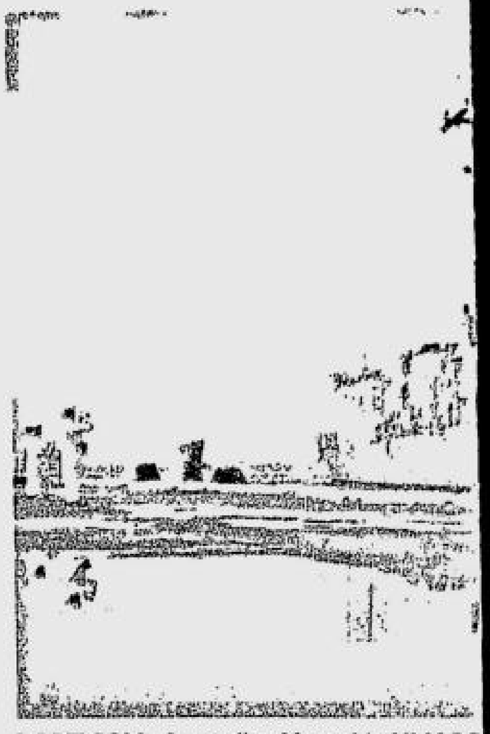
The report said the Philippines must take the "honor of being among the most prolific users in the world" of SMS (short message service), noting that nearly every person had a mobile phone.

"Of more significance is the impact SMS has had on the political front. It is said that in election campaigns, SMS becomes a major tool and campaign technique," the report said. "This phenomenon seemed as natural as people having face-to-face conversations and was no impediment to the other activities and business that was going on around us."

The delegates also praised Filipino food and hospitality, saying: "Whether wealthy or poor, the Philippine people pride themselves in their culinary skills, their generosity and their open-arms welcome of guests."

"If anything can be said about the Philippine people it's their ability to be happy," the report said.

Besides Ripoll, members of the delegation were David Anthony of the Office of Kevin Rudd, Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs, Trade and International Security; George Lemon of the Office of Senator Gary Humphries; Tim Singh of the Office of Senator the Hon. Rod Kemp, Federal Minister for the Arts and Sport; Jane Templeton of the Office of David Hawker, Speaker of the House of Representatives; Cathryn Wood, Councilor, Brookton Shire Council; and delegation secretary Kim Baker.



PORT CALL. Australian Navy ship HMAS D
Friday. With another frigate (not in photo).
the AFP. Australia and the Philippines are c
Agreement that would set the stage for lar

It's geek-turn-chic . . .

From page A1

cups have at last been recognized for their work.

The IgNobel Prizes, a tongue-in-cheek alternative to their more formal Scandinavian counterparts, were presented by genuine Nobel prizewinners late Thursday at an annual ceremony at Harvard University.

The two-hour ceremony was geek-turned-chic as scientists traded their labcoats for tuxedoes and roared with laughter whenever someone uttered the word "inertia"—the evening's theme.

"This is probably the only place in the world where fractal geometry gets applause," said audience member Bill Card.

Ivan Schwab of the University of California Davis and the late Philip May of the University of California Los Angeles received the ornithology prize for their pioneering work on the ability of the humble woodpecker to avoid head injury.

Wasmia Al-Houty of Kuwait University and Faten Al-Mussalam of the Kuwait Environment Public Authority, took home the nutrition prize for showing that dung beetles are in fact finicky eaters.

Winners had one minute to deliver acceptance speeches, with the time limit strictly policed by an outspoken 8-year-old girl.

Physicist sweeps floor

Audience members bucked new security regulations intended to curb an IgNobel tradition: Throwing paper aeroplanes. Over the course of the evening hundreds were hurled at the stage, where Harvard physicist Roy Glauber dutifully swept them up, as he has for the last 10 years.

Glauber joined the ranks of Nobel laureates in 2005 but still insisted on retaining his sweeping duties for the 16th annual ceremony this year.

Despite the gala's irreverent tone, the awards are taken increasingly seriously in the scientific community, with eight of the 10 winners this year paying their own way to attend the ceremony.

Teenager repellant

One of those unable to attend the ceremony for family reasons was Howard Stapleton of Merthyr Tydfil, Wales, who was awarded the peace prize for inventing an electromechanical teenager repellant.

The device makes an annoying noise designed to be audible to teenagers but not to adults. He later used the same technology to make telephone ringtones that are audible to teenagers but not to their teachers.

Three American scientists, Lynn Halpern, Randolph Blake and James Hillenbrand, won the acoustics prize for conducting experiments to learn why people dislike the sound of fingernails scraping on a blackboard.

Audience members squirmed as Nobel laureates recreated the jarring sound using handheld slates and gardening tools.

Rectal massage

And two researchers from Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Research Organization received the maths prize for working out how many photos you need to take to ensure that nobody in a group photo has their eyes closed.

Not to be overlooked, Francis Fesmire of the University of Tennessee accepted the medicine Ig in person for his report "Termination of Intractable Hiccups with Digital Rectal Massage."

In his acceptance speech, Fesmire recalled booking a trip to Stockholm upon first learning of the award—only to realize later that he wasn't receiving a Nobel but rather an Ig.

"My first reaction was shock, then depression," Fesmire joked, waving at the audience with a rubber glove on his hand.

Physics laureates Basile Audoly and Sebastien Neukirch of Paris University were honored for their insights into why dry spaghetti tends to break into more than two pieces.

Cheese research

And while the conclusions of a group of scientists from Valencia University and the University of Illes Balears in Spain were not immediately clear, the judges deemed their study "Ultrasonic Velocity in Cheddar Cheese as Affected by Temperature" worthy of the chemistry prize.

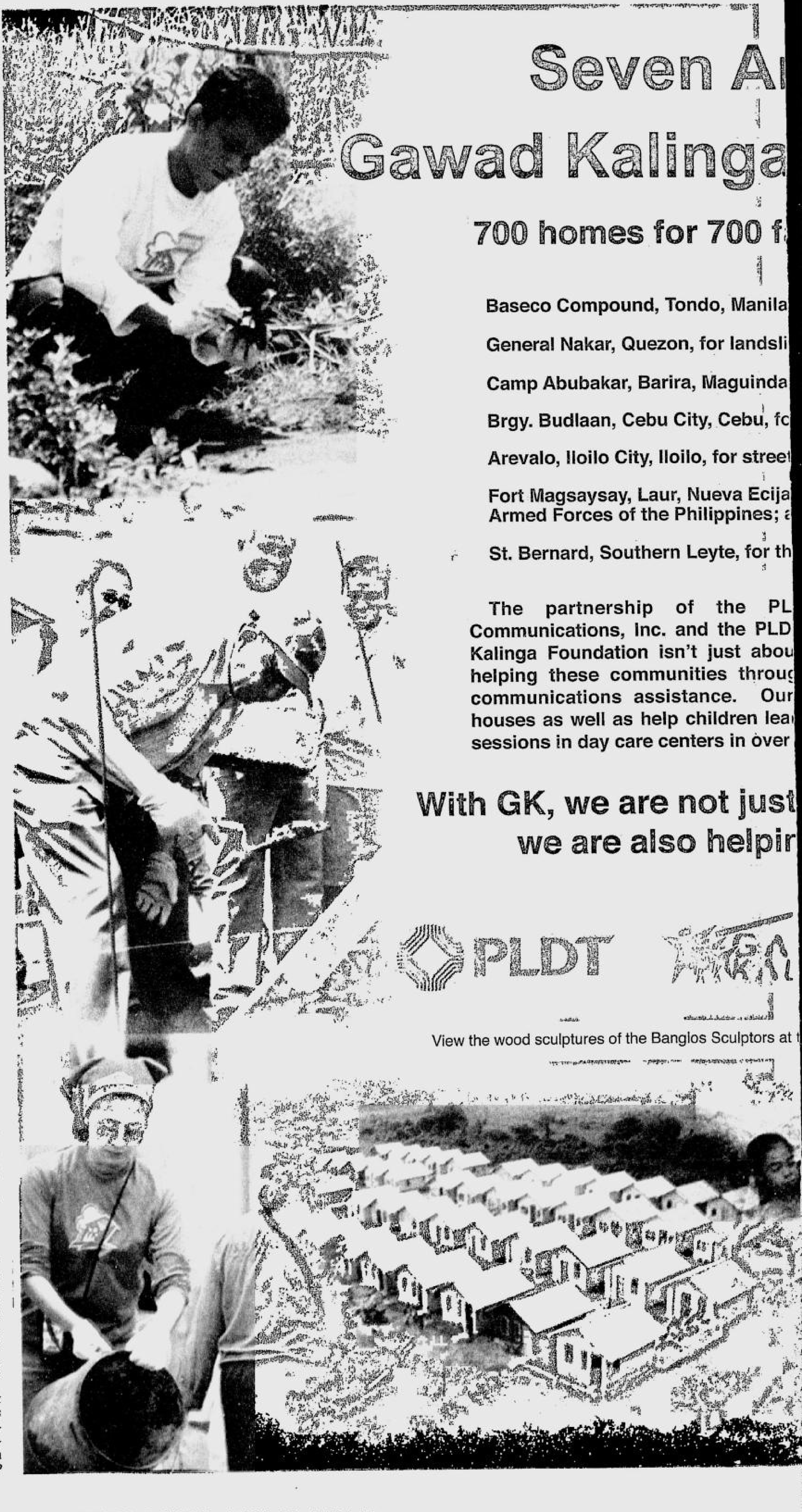
Also honored for cheese research, Bart Knols from Wageningen Agricultural University in the Netherlands won the biology award for his part in research showing that female malaria mosquitoes are equally attracted to limburger cheese and human feet.

"Beat malaria, eat limburger," Knols said in his acceptance speech.

Better luck next year

Former winners who participated in the ceremony were Don Featherstone, creator of the plastic pink flamingo, Kees Moeliker, who reported the first scientifically recorded case of homosexual necrophilia in the mallard duck, and Stefano Ghirlanda, coauthor of the study "Chickens Prefer Beautiful Humans."

In his closing remarks, host Marc Abrahams sent recipients home with a backhanded compliment: "If you didn't win an Ig Nobel this year, and especially if you did, better luck next year." *AFP*



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View the wood sculptures of the Banglos Sculptors at

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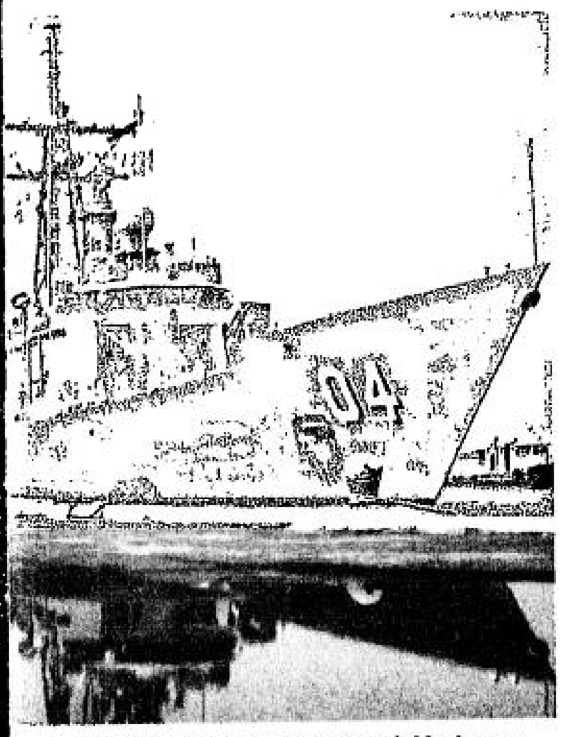

arwin prepares to dock at the South Harbor on
the Darwin is involved in a weeklong training with
urrently negotiating a Status of Forces
ge-scale joint military exercises. AP

THIRD WORLD WARRIORS: Australian cadets observe cadets of the Philippine Military Academy simulate unarmed combat and guerrilla tactics on Thursday, as part of an exchange program between the PMA and the Royal Military Academy of Australia.

VINCENT CABREZA/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Aussie, PMA cadets engage in mock combat

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

FORT DEL PILAR, BAGUIO City—Australian cadets engaged their counterparts at the Philippine Military Academy in mock combat on Thursday, to check the mettle of the institution that has produced a Thai coup leader.

Maj. Gen. Thawip Netniyom topped the PMA "Dimalupig" Class of 1981. His involvement in the bloodless September coup in Thailand has become the subject of good-natured jokes among Filipino officers and cadets.

"They'll stop sending us foreign cadets because we train coup plotters," an officer said in jest. He was also referring to certain PMA graduates implicated in destabilization efforts against the Arroyo administration.

Another leader of the Thai coup, Gen. Tumrongsak Deemongkol, is a member of the PMA "Magilas" Class of 1976.

The PMA has been actively upgrading its defense cooperation programs with other Asian countries because, as its superintendent, Maj. Gen. Leopoldo Maligalig, said on Thursday, "our soldiers will fight side by side with soldiers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), which has become a strong economic alliance in this part of the world."

Defense program

The visit here of the Royal Military Academy of Australia cadets—Michael Corkran, Nathaniel Gerhardt, Thomas Monks-Corrigan, Joshua Porter and Alexandra Workboys—was sponsored by Australia's defense cooperation program.

According to Maligalig, six Filipino cadets have been posted for training in Australia under this program. Capt. Arlene Trillanes, wife of Magdalo leader Lt. Antonio Trillanes, is also completing a master's degree in human resource management courtesy of the same program.

Maligalig said that in the past, the PMA drew the interest of other Asian military academies because of its modern training methods.

Cadets from Thailand and Singapore enrolled at the PMA between 1960 and 1996. The PMA Scribe, the official alumni yearbook, listed four Thai and seven Singaporean graduates during that period.

VINCENT CABREZA/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

A FILIPINO cadet scales a rope ladder during an exercise with Australian cadets at the PMA grounds in Baguio this week.

But the onset of global terrorism has prompted many of Asia's military academies to develop their own training methods based on each country's specific needs, Maligalig said.

As a result, fewer foreign cadets have enrolled at the PMA, and Singapore has stopped sending its students, he said.

Maligalig also said Malaysia had made advances in its military curriculum.

"But these are not changes in military tactic courses because academies like the PMA have shifted their focus to building leadership, instead of just combat qualities, in training cadets," he said.

Asean flag

Most of these academies are now offering parallel courses to enable them to work under an Asean flag, according to Maligalig.

"This is why Australia has been interested in connecting with the Philippines. It needs to be part of the Asean alliance. I won't be surprised if we get cadet partnership arrangements with China very soon, because we have good ties with that country," he said.

The United States is also thinking of a faculty exchange program with the PMA, as part of its contribution to Asia's antiterror campaign, he added.

Thailand coup . . .

From page A1

later by the coup leader, Gen. Sonthi Boonyaratglin.

But at the Class of 1981's 25th reunion in February, Thawip appeared to have been oblivious of the political issues hounding his government. In fact, politics seemed farthest from his—or his classmates'—mind.

"He gave away silk neckties to the men and silk scarves to the ladies," Thawip's *mistah* (classmate), Senior Supt. Alex Paul Monteagudo, recalled in a phone interview.

Monteagudo, the police provincial director of Nueva Ecija, said the reunion was made even more special by the presence of Thawip, one of three foreigner-alumni of the class and the highest ranking.

Exchange program

Thawip, a government scholar at a Thai military school, enrolled at the PMA in April 1977 under an exchange program of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

His classmates at the PMA now hold the rank of colonel in the Army and Air Force, and its equivalent rank of captain in the Navy and senior superintendent in the Philippine National Police.

In honor of his outstanding achievement in the Royal Thai military, Thawip was accorded special military honors by the PMA cadets, according to retired Col. Norman Legaspi.

Legaspi described Thawip—Al to his mistahs—as a "nice, bright guy."

He said Thawip excelled in academics, was neither a loner nor a nerd, and was a pleasant companion (*"Masarap siyang kasama"*).

Said Monteagudo: "If we got 98 in a subject, he got 100. If we got 100 in another subject, he also got 100. He was really that good."

If their classroom efforts were golf, Monteagudo said, the rest of the class would still be struggling to learn the game but Thawip was already "like Tiger Woods."

The Thai cadet also excelled in soccer and badminton. But he amazed his classmates even more with his "fairly good" command of the English language.

They would find out later that Thawip spent a year learning English and "acclimatizing" in Manila in 1976.

Ateneo de Manila

In preparation for his enrollment at the PMA, Thawip studied English at the Ateneo de Manila University in Quezon City.

He shared a room at the Cervini Hall, the on-campus dorm for male college students, with Quintin Doromal Jr., the eldest son and namesake of the former president of Silliman University.

According to the elder Doromal, Thawip joined the family during holidays and was for all intents and purposes a foster son.

"We used to kid him, If you top the class at PMA, we will be there on your graduation," Doromal recalled.

After Thawip entered the PMA, the Doromals often traveled to Baguio to visit him.

And in one of his trips to Thailand as Silliman president, Doromal said, he got to meet Thawip's father (a retired police colonel), mother and other family members.

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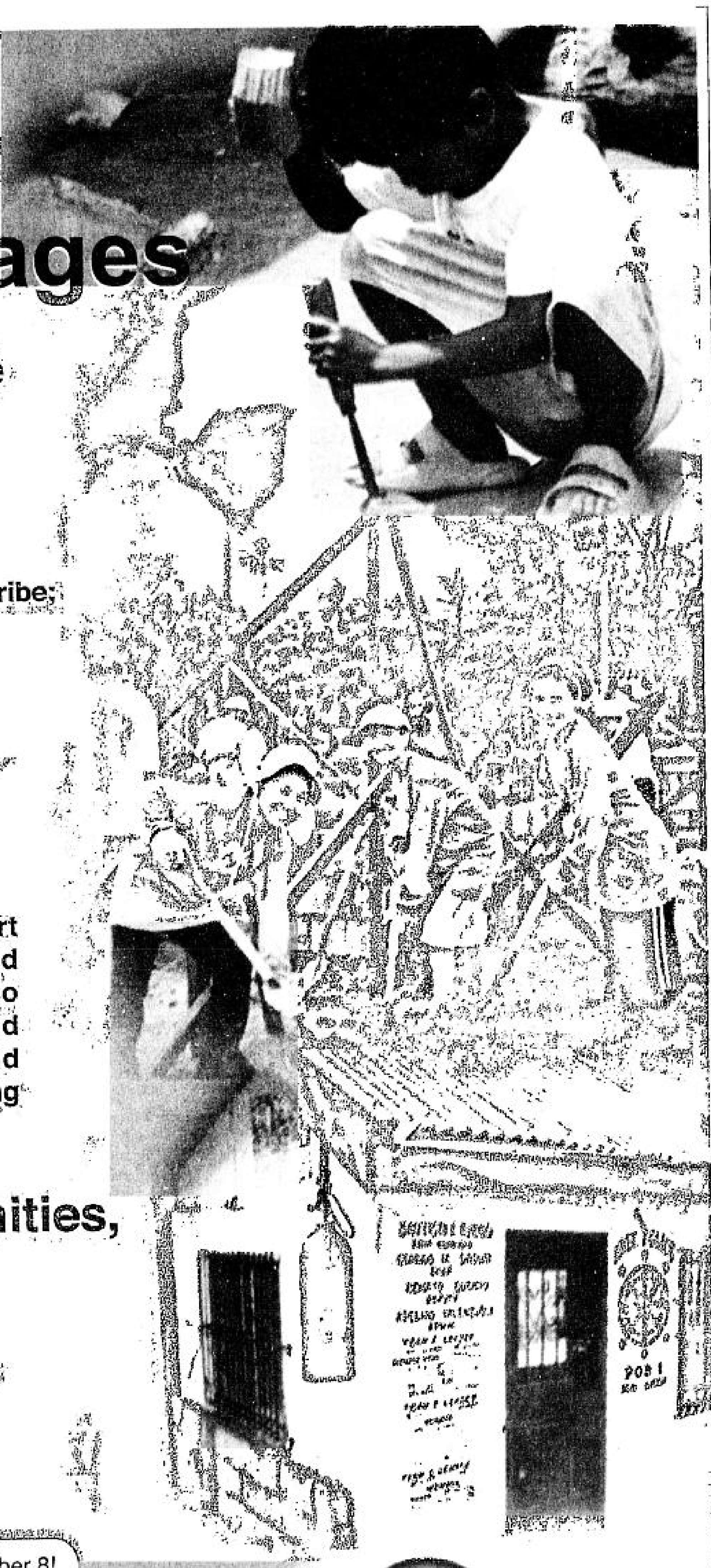

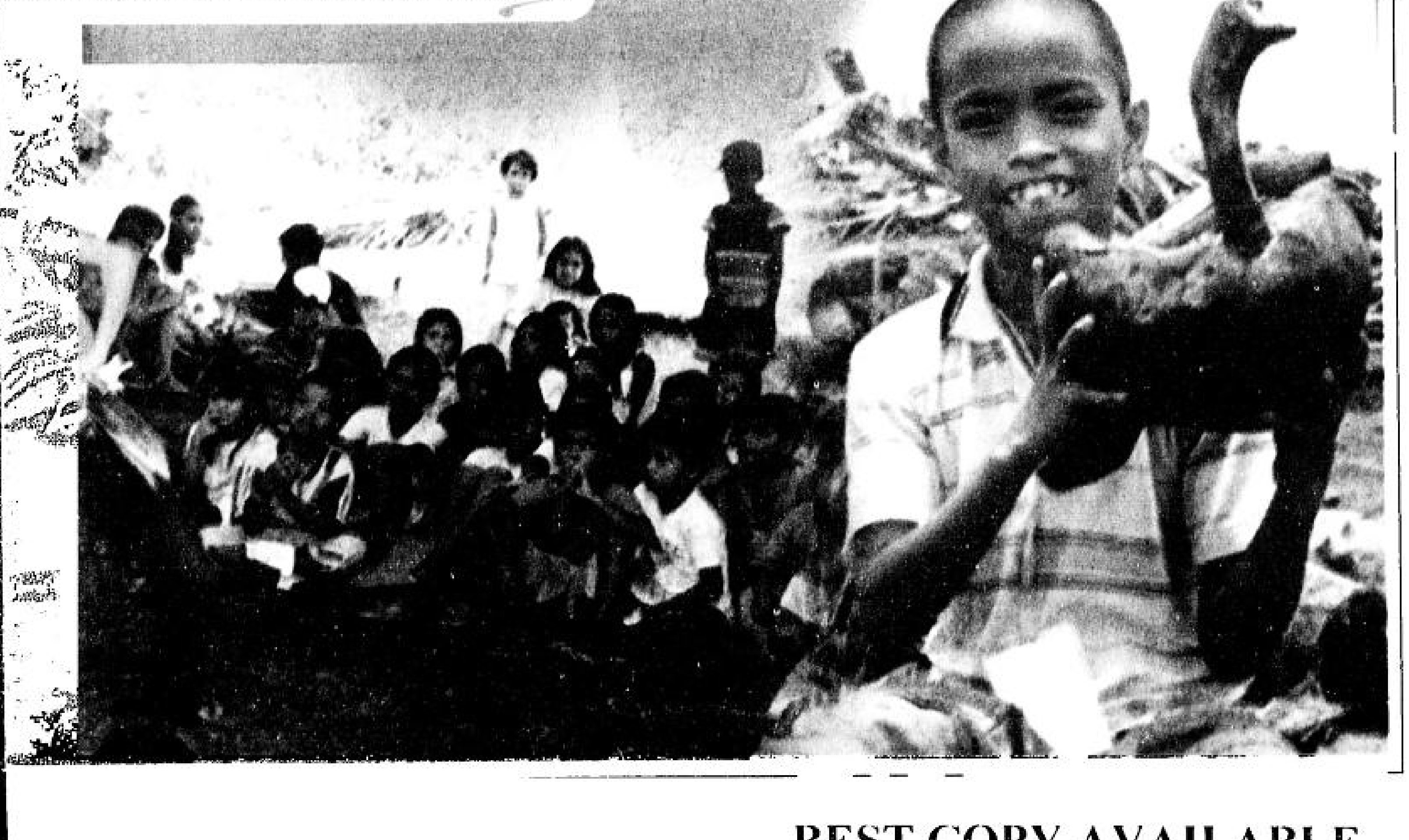

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Deaf

EDITORIAL

WE SEE THAT THE ARROYO ADMINISTRATION'S allies in Congress have joined the chorus of apologists making excuses for the Ombudsman's unexpected exoneration of election officials involved in the anomalous Mega Pacific contract. That should set the administration's alarm bells ringing; the last thing they need is more proof, complete with scripted statements, that Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez's Sept. 27 resolution was decided on partisan lines. But we are afraid that the administration has already turned deaf—or simply does not care about public opinion anymore.

There is no mistaking the leitmotif of this concert of rationalizations; the usual suspects are making the usual noises, and that giant rustling sound you hear is the sound of congressmen and spokesmen turning the pages of their prepared scripts.

The talking points are easy to detect: the difference between a civil case and a criminal case (with its higher standard of evidence); the repetition of certain passages from the Supreme Court's January 2004 resolution, which direct the anti-graft agency to determine criminal liability "if any" in the Commission on Elections case; the continued insistence on the alleged failure of any of the complainants to attend the Ombudsman's 12 hearings conducted in July and August this year; not least, the oft-repeated plea to read the Ombudsman's Sept. 27 resolution itself.

We can expect the decibel level to rise even more, when Gutierrez finally returns to the country to (we presume) personally defend the resolution. All this noise, however, obscures the essential fact: the office of the Ombudsman, too, has turned deaf.

It failed to hear exactly what the high court said, when it voided the P1.3-billion contract for automated counting machines. The language used in the Court's January 2004 decision is unmistakable. Perhaps the Ombudsman has a problem with the Court's enunciation?

Listen.

In the very first paragraph, we hear: "the Commission on Elections approved the assailed Resolution and awarded the subject Contract not only in clear violation of law and jurisprudence, but also in reckless disregard of its own bidding rules and procedure."

In the third: "Because of the foregoing violations of law and the glaring grave abuse of discretion committed by Comelec, the Court has no choice but to exercise its solemn 'constitutional duty' to void the assailed Resolution and the subject Contract."

And that's just from the introduction to the majority opinion. Elsewhere we can hear other loud statements of disapproval: "Furthermore, Comelec and its officials concerned must bear full responsibility for the failed bidding and award, and held accountable for the electoral mess wrought by their grave abuse of discretion in the performance of their functions." And: "it is clear that the Commission further desecrated the law on public bidding by permitting the winning bidder to change and alter the subject of the Contract." And: "At this point, the Court stresses that the essence of public bidding is violated by the practice of requiring very high standards or unrealistic specifications that cannot be met—like the 99.9995 percent accuracy rating in this case—only to water them down after the bid has been awarded. Such scheme, which discourages the entry of prospective bona fide bidders, is in fact a sure indication of fraud in the bidding, designed to eliminate fair competition."

A sure indication of fraud. Desecration of the law. Grave abuse of discretion. Clear violation of the law and jurisprudence. Glaring grave abuse of discretion. Reckless disregard of its own rules. (Other equally loud rumblings can be heard in the two well-written, well-argued concurring opinions.) And yet the Office of the Ombudsman did not hear any of this; in serene silence, it reversed its June 30 resolution and dismissed the pending criminal complaints "for lack of probable cause."

That is what happens when the anguish of broken laws goes unheard; when those who should heed the public's outcry pretend they cannot hear, or are in fact no longer capable of hearing. For the deliberately deaf, the Mega Pacific scam, the atrocious anomaly which cost the government over a billion pesos and set back election reform by a decade, is the perfect crime.

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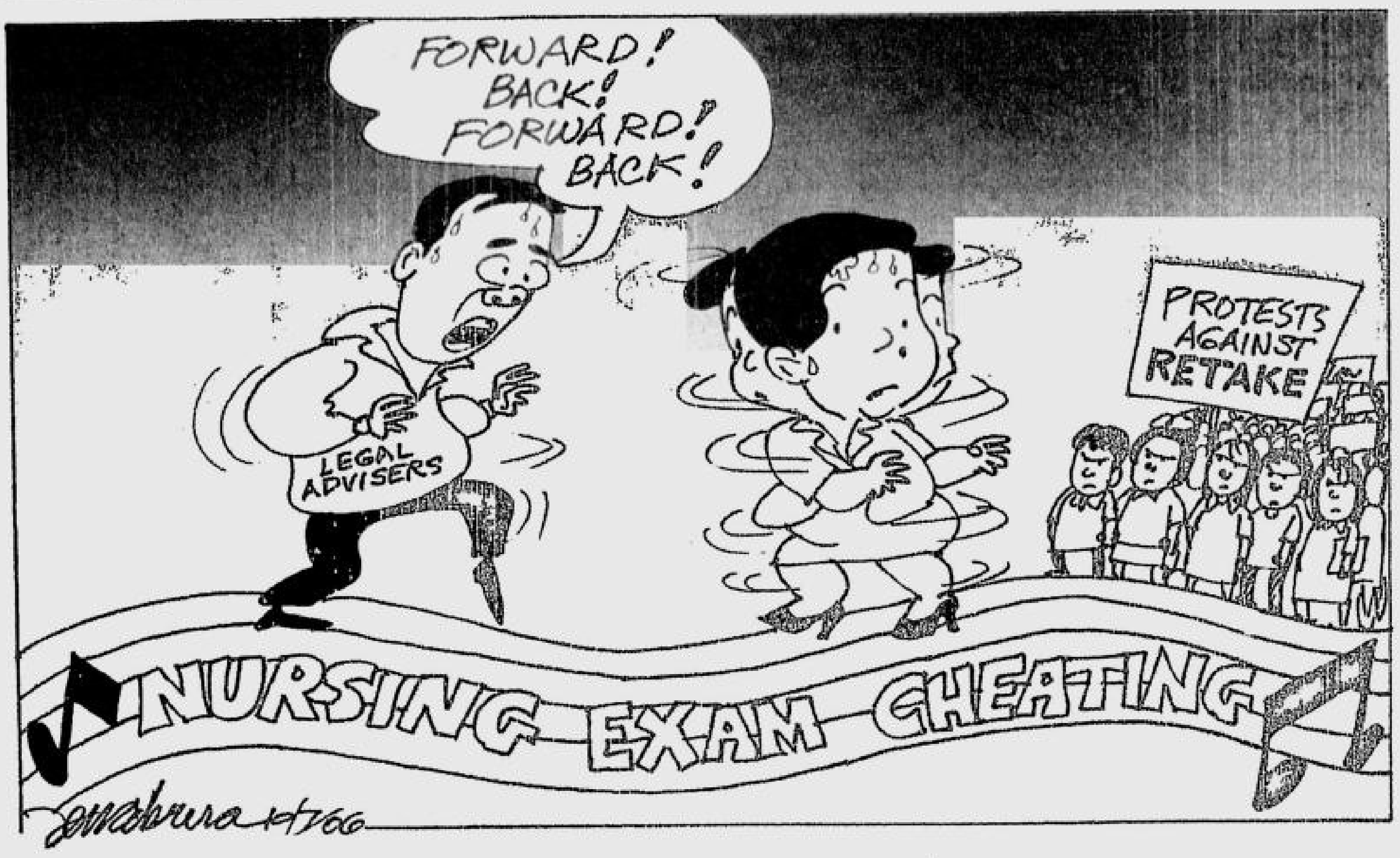


Jointly or separately?

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

BEFORE THE CURRENT DEBATES ON THE Cha-cha, the Con-Ass, and the Con-Con (three trivial denominations involving no less than the fundamental law of the land) demanded the attention of the befuddled nation, I made it clear to my students in Constitutional Law I that the 1987 Constitution can be amended or revised directly by Congress by a three-fourths vote of all its members or by a constitutional convention to be called by a two-thirds vote of all the said members, provided that if they cannot make up their mind, the question of whether or not to call the convention shall be submitted to the people by a majority vote of also all the said members of Congress. A third method of proposing amendments only may be done through the initiative, which is the subject of the much-awaited decision now being studied by the Supreme Court.

I noted that the pertinent provisions in Sections 1 and 3 of Article XVII was likely to cause some confusion in the future because of the ambiguity on how the required votes of Congress were to be determined. Does the phrase "all the Members" of Congress refer to the totality of the Members of the Senate and of the House of Representatives voting jointly or should the required votes be based on the respective members of each chamber voting separately?

The House of Representatives is arguing that the provisions should be interpreted literally according to their common and natural understanding as required by a well-known canon of legal hermeneutics. Such a view will enable it to outvote the members of the Senate any time should they participate in such voting or refuse entirely to do so. The Senate, for its part, believes that the said provisions should be interpreted according to the bicameral nature of Congress. which requires the two chambers to act together, but independently of each other so that their respective wills may be heard and respected. Otherwise, the House of Representatives can always dominate the Senate by the sheer force of numbers and make its nationally elected members a helpless superfluity.

The exception, on which the two Houses agree, is where the Constitution expressly says that they should vote either jointly or separately. But such exception is not found in Article XVII of the 1987 Constitution which simply speaks of all the Members of Congress without indicating where they come from or how their votes shall be given. This omission is hardly understandable, considering the knowledgeability of most of the members of the Constitutional Commission of 1986 on the solemn task they were performing.

In my book on Philippine Political Law, 2002 edition, I make the following observations on pp. 378-79:

"The 1935 Constitution provided that 'the Congress in joint session assembled, by a vote of three-fourths of all the Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives, voting separately, may propose amendments to the Constitution or call a convention for the purpose.' Significantly, the phrase 'voting separately' does not appear in the corresponding provisions of Article XVII, which authorizes Congress 'upon a vote of three-fourths of all its Members,' to propose amendments or a revision directly; by a vote of two-thirds of all its Members, to call a constitutional convention; and by a majority vote of all its Members, to submit to the electorate the question of calling such convention.

"Was the omission of the phrase 'voting separately' deliberate or a mere oversight?

"Interestingly. Art. VI, Sec. 29(a), which used to apply to the unicameral Batasang Pambansa, continues to require 'the concurrence of a majority of all the Members of the Congress' to a law granting a tax exemption. Art. VII, Sec. 4 provides that a tie in the presidential election shall be broken by 'a majority of all the Members of both Houses, voting separately.' Sec. 9 requires the nominee to replace the Vice President to be confirmed by 'a majority of all the Members of both Houses voting separately.' Under Sec. 18, the proclamation of martial law or the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus may be revoked or continued by the Congress, 'voting jointly, by a vote of at least a majority of all its Members.' In Sec. 19. the President is empowered to grant amnesty 'with the concurrence of a majority of all the Members of the Congress,' without indication of whether they should vote separately or jointly."

Of course, we have the familiar rule in Art. VI, Sec. 23(1) that "the Congress, by a vote of two-thirds of both Houses in joint session assembled, voting separately, shall have the sole power to declare the existence of a state of war." But the members of the Constitutional Commission of 1986 did not exercise similar care in determining whether the two Houses should vote jointly or separately in amending or revising the 1987 Constitution.

All the brilliant framers did was copy the corresponding provisions of the Constitution of 1973 that established a unicameral Batasang Pambansa that could naturally vote only jointly. If they had to simply copy so they could have more time to provide for love, sports, advertising and other sundry matters in their lengthy masterpiece, they should have used the Commonwealth Constitution as their model instead of the Marcos decree.

Positive news

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

ALTHOUGH DEEP IN MY HEART I KNEW IT would not happen, still I hoped against hope that Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez would live up to the requirements of her job as protector of the people from the acts or omissions of government officials that are, according to the Constitution, illegal, unjust, improper or inefficient. That's what she promised, and I have the newspaper reports to prove it.

Well, it is clear that while she could talk the talk, she cannot walk the walk. Worse, instead of facing the Filipino people to explain/defend her decision to absolve everyone involved in that illegal election automation contract (reversing an earlier decision), she chose to flee to Switzerland to attend some meeting and left her underlings to face the music.

Am I being harsh? I don't think so. Her subordinate said that she approved the recommendations of her panel on Sept. 27 (I don't know when these were submitted to her). She left on Sept. 30. In other words, she had all the opportunity to make the announcement herself, and if push came to shove, she could have foregone her trip. Since when do the Filipino people have to play second fiddle to a trip to Switzerland?

Gutierrez is a terrible disappointment.

But there is no reason to fall into a black depression. This setback to the effort to institute electoral reforms, which are the necessary first step in good governance, is already being addressed with legal moves to right the wrong.

In the meantime, let us dwell on more positive developments which are heartening enough to keep us going in the struggle to a better future.

There is the Government Infrastructure Forum that took place three days ago. Not that the forum itself was a heartening development (forums are a dime a dozen). What was heartening about this one, which expanded on President Macapagal-Arroyo's super-regions concept, was that the government agencies involved, and the "champions" for each of the super-regions, had done their homework and had done it well. They presented a profile of the regions and the roles that each plays in the overall economic picture. They listed the projects to further enhance these roles and gave project costs. They had the schedules all worked out. And finally, they identified the sources of financing for these projects.

In other words, it seems that in this case, the government knows where it wants to go, how it is going to get there, and in what way the private sector can participate—all these couched not in motherhood statements but with specific details worked out. This is pretty impressive, because it occurs so rarely, requiring a tremendous amount of interagency cooperation.

The only major shortcoming I must point out is that there seemed to be no discussion about how they would avoid the causes of delay that have hounded government infrastructure projects, which have resulted in ruined development timetables and tremendous cost overruns, and unmet targets. Nevertheless, what was presented at that forum speaks well of the government's commitment to growth and development. One thing is sure: If the government does walk this walk, it will lay the foundations for a stronger and more sustainable growth path.

The second heartening development, which cannot be overemphasized, is the improving fiscal picture of the economy. The two-percentage point increase in the VAT (from 10 percent to 12 percent) at the beginning of the year is the major contributor here, and while one is not sure that the tax effort ratio will indeed improve by an additional P80 billion, as Finance Secretary Gary Teves expects (the UP School of Economics study estimated that what was needed was closer to P120 billion), the fact is that there is now more money for developmental projects. Moreover, investor confidence seems to have returned in spades, as seen by the reduced spreads that the Philippines has to pay for its borrowings from abroad (from about seven percentage points over the base to less than two).

You want more good news? There is the drop in the inflation rate in September to 5.7 percent (core inflation: 5.3 percent) It is a heartening development, because our economic managers have kept a lid on inflation, even as our monetary authority has managed to keep interest rates down. Inflation may rise in October as a result of typhoon "Milenyo," but that should not detract from the improvements in price stability. Milenyo, after all, was not man-made, and it is man-made disasters that kill us.

Note that I do not include the appreciation of the peso as a heartening development. That is because a change in the exchange rate is a two-edged sword. The "strengthening" peso encourages imports and discourages exports. Among those who benefit are importers, the consumers of imported products, the government (the peso value of the interest and amortization of dollar-denominated loans is lowered). Those who are disadvantaged are the exporters (do you hear them yelling?) and other dollar-earners, such as our overseas Filipino workers. Whether the net effect is positive or negative has not yet been determined. One thing is sure: most countries prefer that their currency is undervalued than overvalued.

Now if only Malacañang would stop shilly-shallying and stand firm on its decision for a nursing exam retake, that would add to the good news that would strengthen us to overcome the bitter disappointment and the reform setback that the ombudsman's decision represents.

Retake in two subjects is in order

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

I SENSE A DEGREE OF FRUSTRATION IN LABOR Secretary Arturo Brion about Malacañang's "flip-flopping" on the issue of a retake of two subjects in the recent nursing board exams, which have been found to be tainted by a leakage of the questions. He was quoted as opining that if the Palace waits for the Court of Appeals to resolve the case, it could take years since it may go all the way to the Supreme Court. Brion is pressing for a retake now and I think the Palace ought to trust his instincts as he was once an associate justice of the Court of Appeals, and he knows how slowly the justice system works in this country. The Palace should order the retake of the two subjects.

* * *

A retake of the two subjects is strongly recommended by the Philippine Council for Nursing Reform (PCNR), a prestigious association of nursing leaders in the academic and service sectors. PCNR holds that a retake is absolutely necessary for Luzon examinees inasmuch as the leakage was detected in Baguio and Manila review centers the day before the exams, but that this may not be needed for Mindanao. PCNR doubtless has been influenced in stand by the University of Sto. Tomas, since its members meet regularly in that school. UST, under Fr. Rolando de la Rosa, former chair of the Commission on Higher Education, was the first to insist on retaking the exams if the integrity of the nursing profession is to be preserved. It's truly in order.

* * *

I was out of town during the celebration of South Africa's National Women's Day last August, which commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Women's March to Pretoria. But I was very much into the spirit. On Aug. 9, 1956, about 20,000 women of all races and from all parts of SA marched to the Union buildings in Pretoria, the seat of government, to protest against amendments to the Urban Areas Act. This law was aimed at tightening the apartheid government's control over the movement of black women to urban areas by requiring them, as the men already were, to also carry "passes" to be able to move from one place to another. Organized by the Federation of South African Women, the march challenged the idea that a woman's place is in the kitchen by declaring that her place is "everywhere." Through this action, which must have been considered quite bold 50 years ago, the women sent the unmistakable message that they would not be intimidated and silenced by unjust laws.

* * *

The SA government has designated Aug. 9, 2006 as National Women's Day in remembrance of the women's "Anti-Pass March" and an inter-ministerial committee under its Department of Arts and Culture has come up with a year-long program of action with the theme "Age of Hope: Through Struggle to Freedom." That move seeks to honor the country's icons of the liberation struggle and the women's role and contribution to democracy. It also seeks to conscientize that nation about treating women fairly "as an integral part of SA's political and economic activities," and uplift and empower women in order to achieve a more meaningful equality among the various races.

I'm happy to note that its women have come a long way. At the National Day of South Korea earlier this week, as the guests sweated under a generator-fed power supply, SA Ambassador Pieter Vermeulen told me that their deputy president is a lady named Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka. The chief of the Foreign Ministry, Dlamini-Zuma, is only one of a good number of female Cabinet members, among them the ministers of agriculture, mining and health. More power to our SA colleagues.

* * *

Sixteen-year-old Joaquin Ma. "Chino" Sebastian Gutierrez, the Filipino music and math prodigy who's finishing his high school and studying violin in Munich under a grant from the German government, is in Manila on a brief vacation and a visit to his ailing mother Bambi. He will hold a mini-concert tomorrow, Sunday, at 5 p.m. at Miriam College in Quezon City, as a way to thank kind patrons (such as President Macapagal-Arroyo and Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo), friends, former classmates at the Philippine Science High School and the Community of Learners, and fans. A star student of renowned German violin professor Jens Ellermann, Chino will play Tchaikovsky's "Violin Concerto in D major, Opus 35," Johann Sebastian Bach's "Chaconne" from "Partita No. 2 in D minor" for violin solo and two or three Filipino compositions, including "Sa Kabukiran" by Manuel Velez and "Habanera No. 2" by the late Ernesto Vallejo, Chino's great-granduncle. Collaborating with him is pianist Mary Ann Espina. The mini-concert is open to all and free of charge. I would encourage especially young music students to come, so they would draw inspiration from this prodigy.

* * *

The Congressional Spouses Foundation Inc., under the leadership of the indefatigable Gina Perez de Venecia, the Speaker's lady, kicked off yesterday, in cooperation with the Department of Trade and Industry, "Kabuhayan Para sa Kaunlaran 2006." The national livelihood trade fair at the Megatrade Hall of SM MegaMall in Mandaluyong City showcases the finest products from the country's regions. President Arroyo graced the opening, and members of the House were on hand to lend support to their constituencies. It will run until Sunday.

I love going to these trade fairs, especially if it's national in scope, because I get to see products from far and near. "Kabuhayan 2006" was not disappointing. Among the many items on sale are foodstuff, such as *chorizos*, *tinapa* and sweets of all kinds, fresh fruits, beautiful bags adorned with mother of pearl, *piña* fabrics for gowns and *barong* material, baskets and buntal hats, and Christmas décor. It's a good place to do one's X'mas shopping.

* * *

This Monday, Oct. 9, at 3 p.m., former Miss Caltex Amy Gustilo, will launch her first original composition for piano and organ at the Amici Restaurant, Don Bosco, Makati.

France's royal visage

WORLD VIEW

Pascal Boniface

SÉGOLENÈ ROYAL HAS SURGED TO THE front of the pack of Socialists who aim to succeed Jacques Chirac as President of France. Nobody would have bet a single euro on such a prospect a few months ago. Until recently, Royal, who now is merely the head of one of France's 22 regional governments, was best known as the non-married partner of François Hollande, the Socialist Party leader. Yet, according to the polls, she is the only left-leaning candidate who looks able to defeat Nicolas Sarkozy, the interior minister and odds-on favorite to be the center-right's standard bearer in the presidential election next May.

How did Royal rise so far and so fast? One reason is that she is the only fresh face among those Socialists vying for the party nomination. Laurent Fabius, Martine Aubry, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, Jack Lang, and even Hollande are all former senior ministers who neutralized each other, while Lionel Jospin, the former prime minister, decided to put an end to his political career after his defeat in 2002. Each of them has strengths and weaknesses, but no one seems able to challenge Sarkozy. Indeed, confronted with her lead, both Jospin and Hollande have dropped out of the race.

So there was a vacuum to fill, accompanied by a strong desire among the party faithful for revival. Royal's chief virtue is that she has not taken part in the numerous internal battles that infuriate socialist militants and voters, and her lack of direct association with the party's leadership has enabled her to avoid blame for its mistakes. That is why, far from being a disadvantage, her peripheral position is one of her main assets.

She has slim and politically minor ministerial experience—environment minister in 1992-1993, deputy minister for secondary education in 1997-2000, and minister for family affairs in 2000-2002—and has drawn attention mainly for her work on subjects related to daily problems, such as kids' TV programs and mistreatment in schools. But, while other politicians do not regard these matters as politically important, they mean a lot to most ordinary citizens. That is why people tend to view her as a sincere politician, rather than one concerned only about personal ambition.

On security issues and education, Royal differs from the classical Left, being something of a hardliner. This, too, is an advantage in a country where security is the top priority for most people nowadays. A mother of four children who proclaims to believe in traditional family values, she is attractive to right-wing voters, while her non-matrimonial relationship with Hollande makes her seem a quintessentially modern woman.

Moreover, being a woman is a great asset. When disturbed by a question, she usually replies, "Would you have asked the same question to a man?" Ever since Laurent Fabius took a hit in the polls when he mocked her candidacy by asking, "Who will mind the children?" her opponents have feared appearing misogynous when attacking her, and when they do criticize her, she immediately assumes the pose of innocent victim, unfairly bashed by schoolboy bullies.

As a political tactician, she has also been innovative, organizing her campaign on the Internet with a plan to write her program from the responses of users. Her motto, "My program is yours," could prove popular with citizens who, as in many other democracies, do not trust their political elite. Even though, like the majority of France's political class, she was educated at Ecole Nationale d'Administration, she spurns the language and habits of this elite factory. Last but not least, she is attractive. Photos of her in a swimming suit, taken by paparazzi during the summer, triggered much discussion across France.

But the game is not over. The Socialist Party will decide on Nov. 17th who will be its candidate. Trailing her in opinion polls, the other contenders cite her lack of credibility on economic policy and international relations. No one knows her opinion on the Middle East, terrorism, nuclear deterrence, and international security. During the recent Lebanon war, she called for Bill Clinton's intervention, an insufficient answer for many people.

Royal's lack of program has been her strength, but it could yet be her undoing. Eventually, she will be obliged to abandon her studied ambiguity, and she will probably pay a price for doing so. Few voters will support someone whose political program is based only on education and defense of the family. Some Socialists fear that, once nominated, she would not be able to confront Sarkozy in direct debates.

Moreover, opinion polls in France are fickle omens. Since 1981, no poll favorite has won the presidency. According to the polls, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, not François Mitterrand, should have been elected in 1981. In 1988, just months before the election, Raymond Barre (a former prime minister) was the favorite, but he did not even qualify for the second-round run-off. A few weeks before the election in 1995, Jacques Chirac looked so weak that a journalist bluntly asked him on live TV whether it would not be better for him to give up. And Jospin was considered the only possible winner in 2002, before finishing third, behind Chirac and Jean-Marie Le Pen.

But Royal is confident in her fate. She is far from being a weak contender, and she is a fast learner with a strong campaign team. If she can strengthen her program on foreign policy, she may yet open a new chapter in French political history.

Project Syndicate

Pascal Boniface is director of the Institute for International and Strategic Relations (IRIS), Paris.

The proposed initiative is dead

COMMENTARY

Francisco S. Tatad

AGAINST ALL ODDS, THE ARROYO ADMINISTRATION appears confident that the Supreme Court will rule that Republic Act 6735, an act providing for a system of initiative and referendum, is sufficient to implement people's initiative on constitutional amendments. That may or may not come to pass. But even if it does, it still cannot provide what the proposed initiative lacks.

The project is dead, dead from the very start. The petitioners themselves have killed it. They have shown that it is the government's, not the people's initiative; that the alleged 6.3 million petitioners do not even know the form or content of their proposed amendments; that the proposition they want to submit to a plebiscite does not contain the proposed amendments. While they invoke RA 6735 as the basis of their petition, they have failed to comply with its simplest requirements.

Let me explain.

In 1996, the People's Initiative for Reform, Modernization and Action (Pirma) tried through direct initiative to remove the constitutional term limit on then President Fidel V. Ramos and other elective officials. The Supreme Court stopped it. In Santiago vs Commission on Elections, the Supreme Court ruled in March 1997 that RA 6735 was insufficient for the purpose, and permanently enjoined the Comelec "from entertaining or taking cognizance of any petition for initiative on amendments to the Constitution until a sufficient law shall have been validly enacted to provide for the implementation of the system."

Last August, the Sigaw ng Bayan Coalition and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap), claiming the support of 6,327,952 petitioners, asked the Comelec to submit the following proposition to a plebiscite:

"Do you approve the amendment of Article VI and VII of the 1987 Constitution changing the form of government from the present bicameral presidential to unicameral parliamentary system, and providing Article XVIII as Transitory Provisions for the orderly shift from one system to the other?"

The Comelec junked the petition, citing the 1997 Supreme Court ruling.

On Sept. 4, the petitioners appealed the Comelec decision to the Supreme Court. At the Sept. 26 hearing, they asked the Court to give their petition due course, arguing that while Pirma's petition had only a few signatures, theirs already had 6.3 million, and counting. That was more than the 12 percent of the total number of registered voters (each legislative district represented by at least 3 percent of its own) needed to move a constitutional proposal from the people.

But while they pounded on the people's right to propose direct amendments, they also said Malacañang's constitutional consultative commission had drafted the proposed "amendments," and that the local government executives had produced most of the signatures. Even the solicitor general, who should have been representing the Comelec, was speaking for the petitioners instead.

The word "people" is so clear to all that neither the Constitution nor RA 6735 has found it necessary to define its meaning within the phrase "people's initiative." In no context can it possibly mean the President or local officials whom the Constitution excludes from its amendment process. This, however, has not prevented President Macapagal-Arroyo and her local officials from interfering in it.

Not only has the President openly campaigned for Charter change in her State of the Nation Address and other statements, she has also created the constitutional consultative commission to draft proposed amendments. She has even spoken to Pope Benedict XVI about it.

One lady justice could not help but ask, "Government initiative?"

The major proposed changes occur in Articles VI, VII and XVIII of the Constitution. But the incidental amendments spill over into other articles. All told, they number about 100. But these are not known to the public, or even to the 6.3 million alleged proponents, in violation of the very law they invoke.

RA 6735 provides that the petition must contain, among other things, the following:

1. "Text of the proposed law sought to be amended, approved or rejected, amended or repealed, as the case may be."
2. "The proposition," defined as "the measure proposed by the voters."
3. "An abstract or summary in not more than one hundred (100) words which shall be legibly written or printed at the top of every page of the petition."

And "no petition embracing more than one subject shall be submitted to the electorate."

None of these requirements have been met. Even the 45-word "abstract" does not appear on the top of every page. As for the one-subject rule, the proposed scrapping of Article XVIII rips this completely apart, since it contains 27 sections belonging to different subjects.

Many of the proposals, if not opaque, are half-baked. For instance, there shall be a parliament, a prime minister, and a president, but not enough particulars are stated. No one knows if the president is to be elected or appointed. One provision says that the president may be impeached by one-third of all the members of parliament; another provision says by two-thirds. Parliament will be established only after June 30, 2010. Meantime, Ms Arroyo will control the entire government by abolishing the Senate and creating a Marcos-type interim parliament.

The petition is null and void ab initio. Not even a Supreme Court ruling that RA 6735 is sufficient to implement people's initiative should be allowed to validate this fraudulent and invalid project.

Francisco S. Tatad is a former senator.

'Fugly' once

YOUNG BLOOD

Crispy

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

YOU KNOW WHEN PROUD PARENTS GO INTO A MOCK ARgument over who among their children took after their intelligence or lovable personality or nice physical attributes? "*Sa akin yata nagmana 'yan (Of course, he/she took after me),*" they would say.

I was the kid who excelled in school, so I used to hear that line from my parents whenever I brought home my report card or flashed gold medals or earned merit ribbons from a declamation contest or a science quiz bee. And it felt good.

But it felt different when I heard one of them say, "*Kamukha mo siya* (She looks like you)," and the other protested, "*Hindi, mana siya sa 'yo* (No she got her looks from you)."

I overheard that exchange when, perhaps out of sheer boredom (or plain tactlessness), my parents started discussing who among their children were good-looking and who in particular looked like them. And sadly, I was the kid they were talking about when both of them jokingly denied any genetic responsibility for my less-than-dazzling looks. It seemed as if nobody wanted to be my *kamukha*(look-alike).

I heard those remarks when I was 13 years old, and that was when I came to realize that I was not beautiful. I struggled through my teen years up to my early 20s with a lot of hang-ups and insecurities, thinking I was smart but "fugly" (f—king ugly).

Now I am 28, and surprisingly, I turned out OK. Meaning I didn't morph into a murderous sociopath (hurrah!) despite the many disparaging remarks that mercilessly crushed my self-esteem. Apparently I'm made of sterner stuff, though it took a while before knew I had it in me.

What's a camera-shy girl to do when a photographer asks her, "Why do you hate to have your picture taken? *Hindi ka naman masyadong pangit* (After all, you are not that ugly)." (I am quoting him verbatim.) Nasty.

What's a nice, bright-eyed girl to do when, at the five-star hotel where she works, a snooty guest tells her, "Are you really working at the PR department? You don't look like a glamorous PR person. You're kinda more suited to desk jobs." (I swear that is verbatim, too.) Nastier.

What's a dark-skinned girl to do when her mother thoughtlessly remarks, upon seeing the new Nescafé commercial, "*Ang pangit ni (name of model); ang itim pa niya* (Ugh how ugly she is; and besides she is so dark)," little knowing that so many people had already told her daughter her "truly Filipina" looks and *morena* color reminded them of a younger (name of model). Nastiest.

What's a girl to do? I took it all in. Cried a little. Wallowed in self-pity a little. Cursed a little. Sighed a little. Contemplated tearing out their hair or gouging out their eyes a little.

But I was generally OK. I comforted myself with the thought that, cliché though it may be, every girl is beautiful in her own unique, quirky way. It doesn't matter how much a woman's looks deviate from other people's pre-conceived notions of physical beauty, because true beauty is so much more than rosy cheeks, perfect teeth, slender arms, not-a-strand-out-of-place hair, or flawless legs.

Again it is a cliché, but real beauty comes from within: essentially, what you get when you strip someone of her makeup, stylish clothes, snobbish job title, monthly salary, hunky boyfriend and what-have-you. It is what you get regardless of her age, complexion, body type, waistline, bra size or the shape of her nose. It is strength and resoluteness of spirit, integrity, compassion, passion, plus a lot of wit and good-natured humor. Beauty is moving with ease and confidence, being straightforward, making no excuses, enjoying life.

I'm still the same fugly girl, going by the conventional standards of beauty. No fairy godmother has come into my life and magically changed my looks. It was my attitude and outlook in life that changed. And that was when the magic kicked in.

I am what I am and I love what I see in the mirror every day. The ugly duckling has not turned into a beautiful swan, but it has become a full-grown, wiser duck.

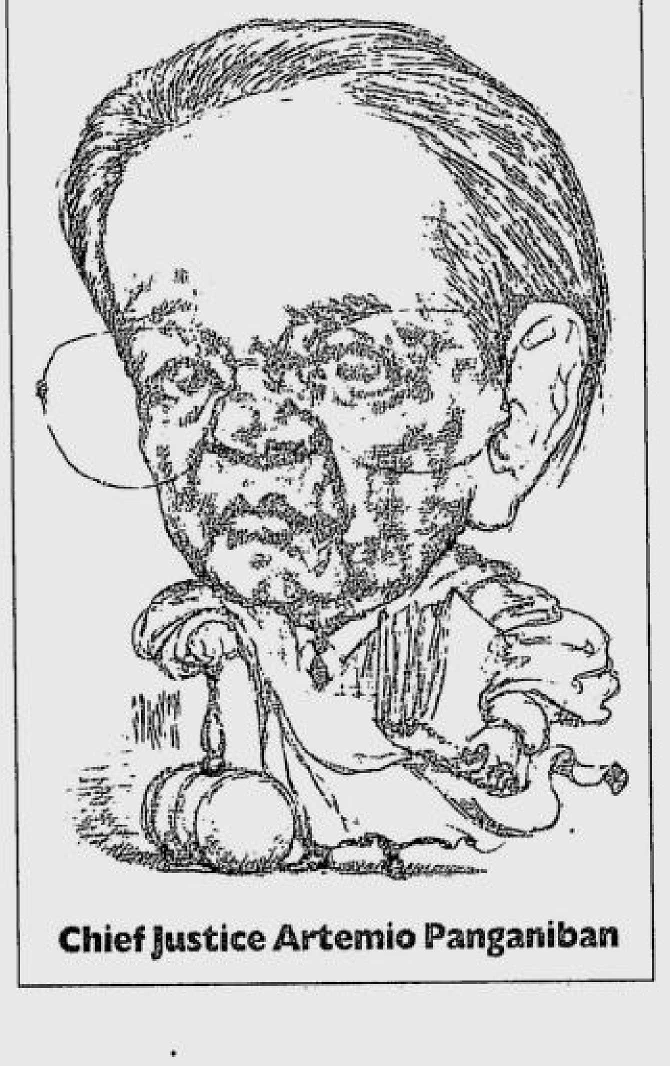
People say true beauty radiates from within and that there's a certain delicate beauty in minimalism and simplicity.

Because I grew up believing I was ugly, I found it uncomfortably amazing that someone actually described this duckling as someone "who looks so plain and so simple at first glance but has the unexpected beauty that creeps up and grows on you the longer you look at her—*paganda nang paganda*(growing more and more beautiful)." And that's verbatim again.

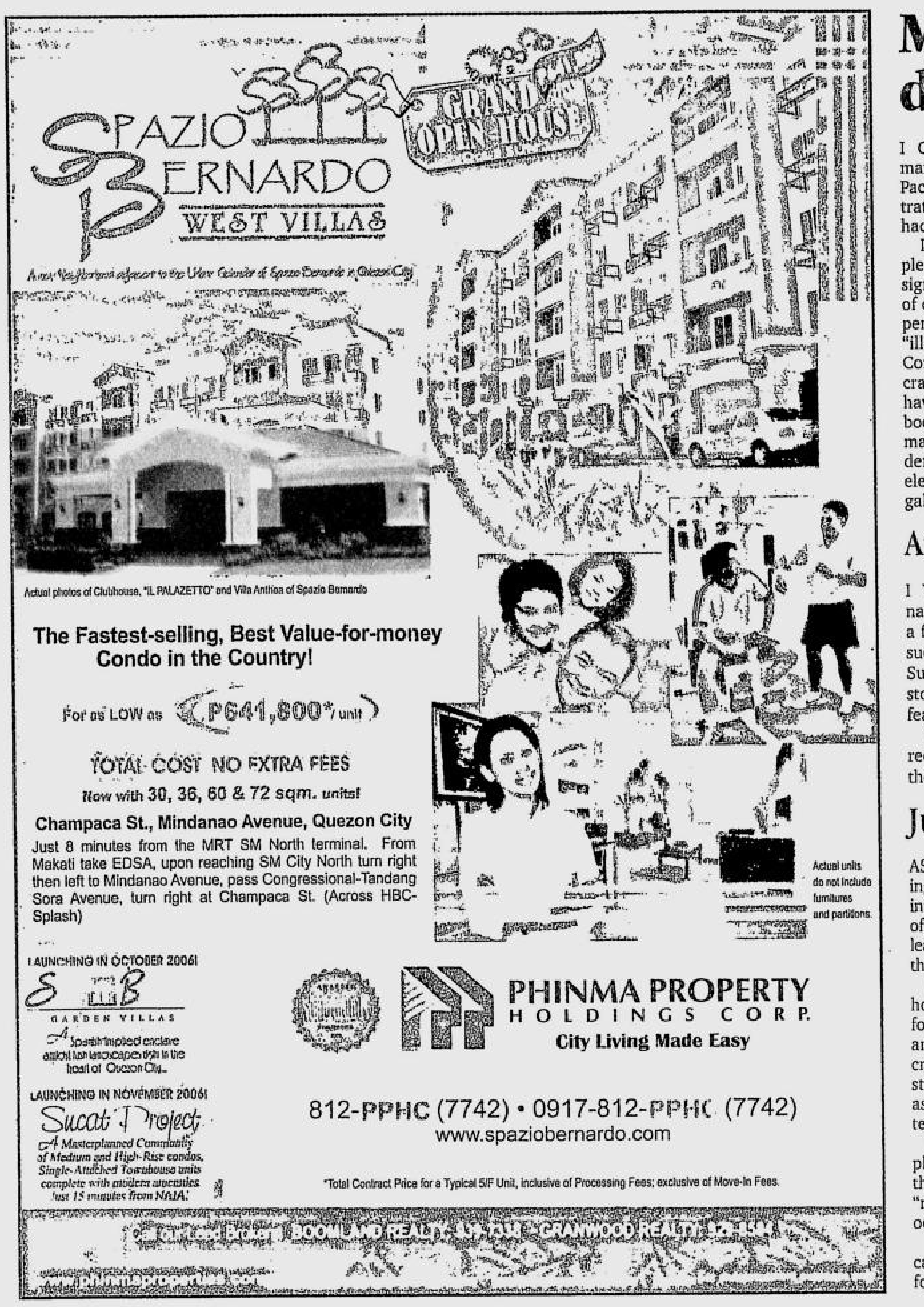
To this day, my heart still skips a beat whenever I hear people tell me in all sincerity that I am simple but beautiful. The key word here is "sincerity," and I can't ask for more.

Crispy, 28, works in a government corporation as a communications specialist.

IN THE NEWS



Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban



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Meaning of Ombudsman's decision on Comelec case

I CANNOT UNDERSTAND THE OMBUDSMAN's decision to absolve Comelec and Mega Pacific officials from all criminal and administrative liabilities in what the Supreme Court had ruled to be an illegal contract.

Does the decision mean that influential people, particularly high government officials, can sign illegal contracts and commit "grave abuse of discretion" with total impunity? What happened to the Supreme Court decision that the "illegal, imprudent and hasty actions of the Commission [on Elections] have not only desecrated legal and jurisprudential norms, but have also cast serious doubts upon the poll body's ability and capacity to conduct automated elections? Truly, the pith and soul of democracy—credible, orderly and peaceful elections—has been put in jeopardy by the illegal and gravely abusive acts of the Comelec."

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

The Ombudsman went beyond the Supreme Court directive by absolving the Comelec officials even of administrative charges and inexplicably backtracked on its earlier recommendation to prosecute the least guilty Comelec officials. It also went against the findings of its field investigation office.

It is interesting to know what the high court's reaction would be. Maybe, it's also time to investigate the Ombudsman herself.

—RAMON CASIPLE,
executive director,
Institute for Political and Electoral Reform
(IPER), 54-C Mapagkawanggawa St.,
Teachers Village, Quezon City

Angelika Mariano, not Susan Reyes

I WOULD JUST LIKE TO CORRECT THE name of the child who was with a Dalmatian in a front-page photo of the INQUIRER's Oct. 5 issue. The child's name is Angelika Mariano, not Susan Reyes, as stated in the caption. A related story ("Makati celebrates World Pet Day") was featured in the Metro section.

Though it is not a paid advertisement, may I request for the change of the correct name of the child in the newspaper.

—RHODELIA C. MARIANO,
mother, senior trade
and industry development specialist,
Department of Trade and Industry

I am the photographer who covered the World Pet Day celebration last Wednesday. It was a mistake on my part and I extend my apologies.

—REM ZAMORA,
PDI photojournalist

June '06 nursing board exam and May '04 election

ASKING THE PASSERS TO RETAKE THE NURSING board exam is absurd. If we're talking about integrity of the exam—or, perhaps, the integrity of those students who have benefited from the leakage and want a retake, then by all means, they should take the exam by themselves.

For those who passed the exam through honest means, we say: we waited four years for this exam, worked hard during the review and then took it honestly. I think our integrity, credibility and our competence as nurses are still intact. I really don't see the word "retake" as the only means to save this thing called "integrity."

The investigators already know the exact places where the leakage happened. I guess the best way to resolve this case is to have the "retake" only in those places where the leakage occurred.

Many of us need to support our families. Because of this, some of us have already applied for a job as call center agents. This kind of work isn't even our field. Also, most of the hospitals in Cebu and in Mindanao don't accept this year's board passers. Why? Is it because of the leakage?

Nursing directors are fast becoming paranoid. They know for a fact that the leakage took place in just a few places, not in all exam sites. So why is the Professional Regulation Commission giving us a hard time applying for work in hospitals? I do think the retake is unfair to those who passed without cheating.

Finally, by ordering the retake, President Macapagal-Arroyo has shown that she doesn't tolerate cheating. I just hope she has the same mind-set about the 2004 election. If we must take the exam again, then a snap election or a recount of the votes will just be fair—to clear and erase all doubts about the legitimacy of the country's highest public official.

—LOUWEL YEE,
louwel_yee@yahoo.com

Shown from left are:
Mrs. Angela M. Arroyo with daughters, Monique (in her arms) and Mikaela Gloria (standing), Ma. Joanne L. Cruz, GBS Chief Operating Officer and Mrs. Ma. Teresa Cancio - Suplico, GBS President.

BRIDGES BOOKSTORE INAUGURATION
- Presidential daughter-in-law Angela M. Arroyo with daughters Monique and Mikaela Gloria, together with Mayor J.V. Ejercito's representative, Coun. Vincent Pacheco, cuts the ribbon to open Bridges Bookstore (V - Mall, Greenhills Shopping Center), the new retail arm of Goodwill Bookstore

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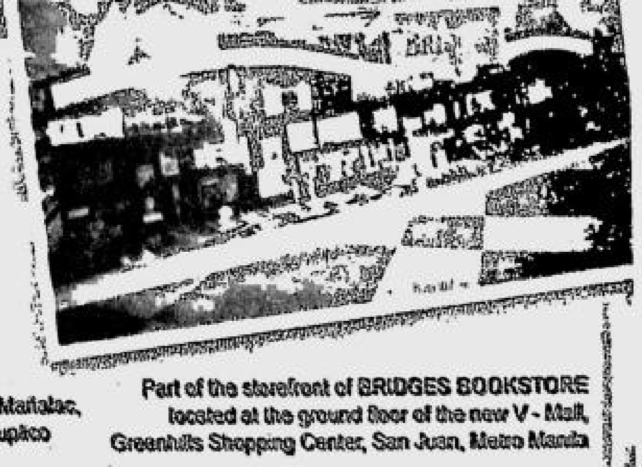
Fr. Jimmy Marquez of St. John Vianney Parish, CEMBO, Makati blessing BRIDGES BOOKSTORE while being assisted by Tommy C. Suplico

The friendly staff of the newly-opened BRIDGES BOOKSTORE with Branch Manager, Ofel B. Mabbagu (6th from left), Jeanna C. Suplico (in pink jacket, center) Tommy C. Suplico, and Nancy T. Tarnate, Head of Purchasing for Goodwill and Bridges Bookstore (10th from left)

Tess Cancio - Suplico
President of Goodwill Bookstore
welcomes everyone to GBS'
newest baby - BRIDGES BOOKSTORE

GRUPO DE BAILE ANDALUZ performed a short Flamenco program for the guests' entertainment.
Shown from left:
Jessie Santos, Mabel Morales-Mariatas, Belen Co, and Tess Cancio - Suplico performing *TIENTOS*



Part of the storefront of BRIDGES BOOKSTORE located at the ground floor of the new V - Mall, Greenhills Shopping Center, San Juan, Metro Manila

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Oil spill spread to Tubbataha feared

SORROW
Relatives of the passengers of a jeep who died when the vehicle was swept by strong river currents in a village in Igbaras, Iloilo gather to remember their dead loved ones at the Sonsongon River. A wife of one of the dead wept as she and the other relatives lit candles at the riverbank.

By Norman Bordadora

AN EXPERT ON MARINE ECOLOGY YESTERDAY called on all concerned sectors to immediately contain the remaining oil in waters off Guimaras as the ocean currents are expected to shift directions in the coming weeks.

Ocean currents shifting from its southwest to northeast direction and vice versa will likely result in the remaining oil going toward the biodiversity-rich area of the Sulu Sea, including the Tubbataha Reef.

"The oil spillage must be stopped before monsoon winds change and drive the oil to critical habitats in the Sulu Sea," said Wilfredo Licuanan, chair of the De La Salle University's department of biology.

In a news conference in Quezon City, Licuanan said the government's decision to siphon out the oil from MT Solar I in December might be too late with the onset of the northeast monsoon in the coming weeks.

Licuanan said that if the siphoning starts toward the end of the year, it may only be finished by February. February is the peak of the northeast monsoon across the archipelago and its waters.

"The problem is greatly complicated by the depth at which it is sunken. The ship might be also too big to be floated," he said.

The Sulu Sea and the Tubbataha Reef are one of the areas of the country rich in marine life. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) has declared the reef a world heritage site.

Licuanan said a simulation they did with eggs of fish showed that particles released from Guimaras on a northeast monsoon would pass Negros and end up in the Tubbataha and Balabac reefs in just 30 days.

"What we did was passive dispersal. Eggs of fish could not swim, as well as the oil slick," he said.

He said that oil continues to leak out of the sunken ship at five liters an hour.

ROUNDUP

Fishers warned: Sanctuaries or boats!

MAMILI KAYO !

DIGOS CITY—Fishermen living along a coastline village here should refrain from fishing within sanctuaries or they will be dealt with accordingly, Mayor Arsenio Latasa warned. Some fishermen were reportedly taking advantage of the growing number of fishes harboring within the protected sanctuaries and mangrove areas in Barangay Sinawilan. "You must help the government in its effort to preserve our fish sanctuaries since it is purposely done for your own benefit," Latasa told fishermen during a dialogue last week. "I would personally burn their boats if they are caught fishing within those areas," Latasa said.

Eldie S. Aguirre, Inquirer Mindanao

Typhoon kills 2 in Maguindanao, Lanao

COTABATO CITY—A village chair in Maguindanao was pinned to death when a coconut tree, blown by strong winds brought about by storm "Neneng," fell on Monday. Vice Mayor Adnan Biruar of Parang, Maguindanao, said village chair Nasrudin Dalandas of Barangay Litayin, Bongo Island, Parang town and three others were rushing home as strong winds hit Bongo Island when three coconut trees fell one after another when hit by what villagers described as a freak tornado. Dalandas was hit on the head. Another unidentified villager was also killed in Barangay Daguan, Kapatagan, Lanao del Sur after a tree was uprooted by strong winds Monday night. In North Cotabato, a teacher, Tumindeg Bambao of the President Roxas Elementary School has been reported missing after a pump boat he was riding was overturned by rampaging waters in the Pulangi River in President Roxas town on Friday. North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol, chair of the provincial disaster coordinating council, said other passengers of the motorboat survived the incident.

Edwin O. Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao

2 cop chiefs sacked over 'jueteng'

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—The chiefs of police of Batangas City and Naic, Cavite were relieved from their posts on Sept. 27 after anti-illegal gambling operatives of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) arrested suspected "jueteng" workers in their areas last week. Senior Supt. Edmund Zaide, office in charge of the Batangas police, said the relief of Batangas City police chief Supt. Nilo Anzo was a result of the one-strike policy of the Philippine National Police (PNP) in which town police chiefs are axed if anti-illegal gambling operatives from other PNP units successfully conduct raids in their areas of responsibility. Last Thursday, CIDG members collared a jueteng *cabo* and three alleged bet collectors in Barangay Banaba, Batangas City while collecting bets from residents in the area. In Cavite, Naic police chief Senior Insp. Larry Malaybalay was also sacked after operatives from Camp Crame arrested six jueteng workers in the area. The raid in Naic came following the denial of Supt. Rodel Sermonia, intelligence head of the Cavite police, that the underground lottery operations had resurfaced in the province.

Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Dengue search-and-destroy operations

BAGUIO CITY—The Baguio health department has intensified its search-and-destroy campaign on breeding sites of dengue-carrying mosquitoes in public and private schools. Dr. Felicidad Ganga, officer in charge of the BHD's epidemiology and surveillance unit, said BHD personnel, teachers and students conduct cleanup operations at 4 p.m. daily to remove breeding sites of mosquitoes. Ganga said school doctors have also been tapped to distribute information materials on the dangers of dengue. The Department of Health in the Cordillera said the city has the highest number of dengue cases in the region from January to September this year, at 670 cases.

Desiree Caluza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Phivolcs: Taal back to normal

TALISAY, Batangas—The Taal volcano has returned to its normal state, after the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology recorded a single volcanic earthquake at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday from Tuesday last week's 29 quakes. Under quiet periods, the Phivolcs records five earthquakes or less in Taal daily. Earthquakes under Intensity 2 to 3 were felt with rumbling sounds in Daang Kastila, Tibag, Tablas, Mataas na Gulod and Panikihan in the lake's volcano island on Tuesday last week. Taal is currently placed at Alert Level 1 status. The main crater remains off-limits to the public. Taal, the world's smallest active volcano located 70 km south of Manila, has exploded 34 times since 1572. It last erupted on Oct. 3, 1977.

Marlon Alexander Luistro, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Enjoy parenting, attend a retreat

PARENT-child relationship is one of the most challenging experiences that bring out the spirit of love and giving. By knowing and loving themselves more, parents will know and love their children more. The Brahma Kumaris Center for Spiritual Learning in Tagaytay will hold the "Enjoying Parenting" program starting 4 p.m. today until 4 p.m. tomorrow. The public is invited to this free program. For details, call (046) 413-2126.

Nearly all Albay schools damaged by 'Milenyo'

LEGAZPI CITY—UP TO 90 PERcent of public schools in Albay suffered damages as a result of Typhoon "Milenyo," prompting the holding of shortened classes in two shifts in the schools needing repairs.

Education officials estimate the total cost of damages at P122 million as they await financial aid from the government for the rehabilitation.

Epifanio Buela, Albay schools division superintendent, admitted that funds of the regional and provincial school boards will not be enough for the rehabilitation of the damages.

While Malacañang allotted P55 million for the restoration of power in Albay, the education sector has not yet received any financial aid to be able to repair and reconstruct damaged learning facilities.

"We have already submitted a damage report to the Department of Education central office and other agencies. Now we will just see and wait," Buela said.

Publics schools in the second district of Albay were most damaged reaching P45.4 million; third district, P42.1 million; and first district P34.5 million.

Partial damage reports showed that the cost of damage to schools in Legazpi is more than P25 million.

Regina Sarte, Legazpi schools division superintendent, said the minor damages to the schools in this city were already taken care of by the school heads. But funds are not yet available for major damages.

She said one classroom in a public school costs around P400,000.

Rep. Joey Salceda said the priority of the government is to restore the power supply first before repairing damaged school buildings and infrastructure.

Buela said Milenyo's strong winds tore off roofs from the school buildings.

Buela said education officials are studying the possibility of extending the school days and removing the semestral break since classes had been greatly interrupted by the Mayon volcano eruption, when schools were used as temporary shelters for the evacuees, and Typhoon Milenyo.

Niña Catherine Calleja, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Photojourn course launch set

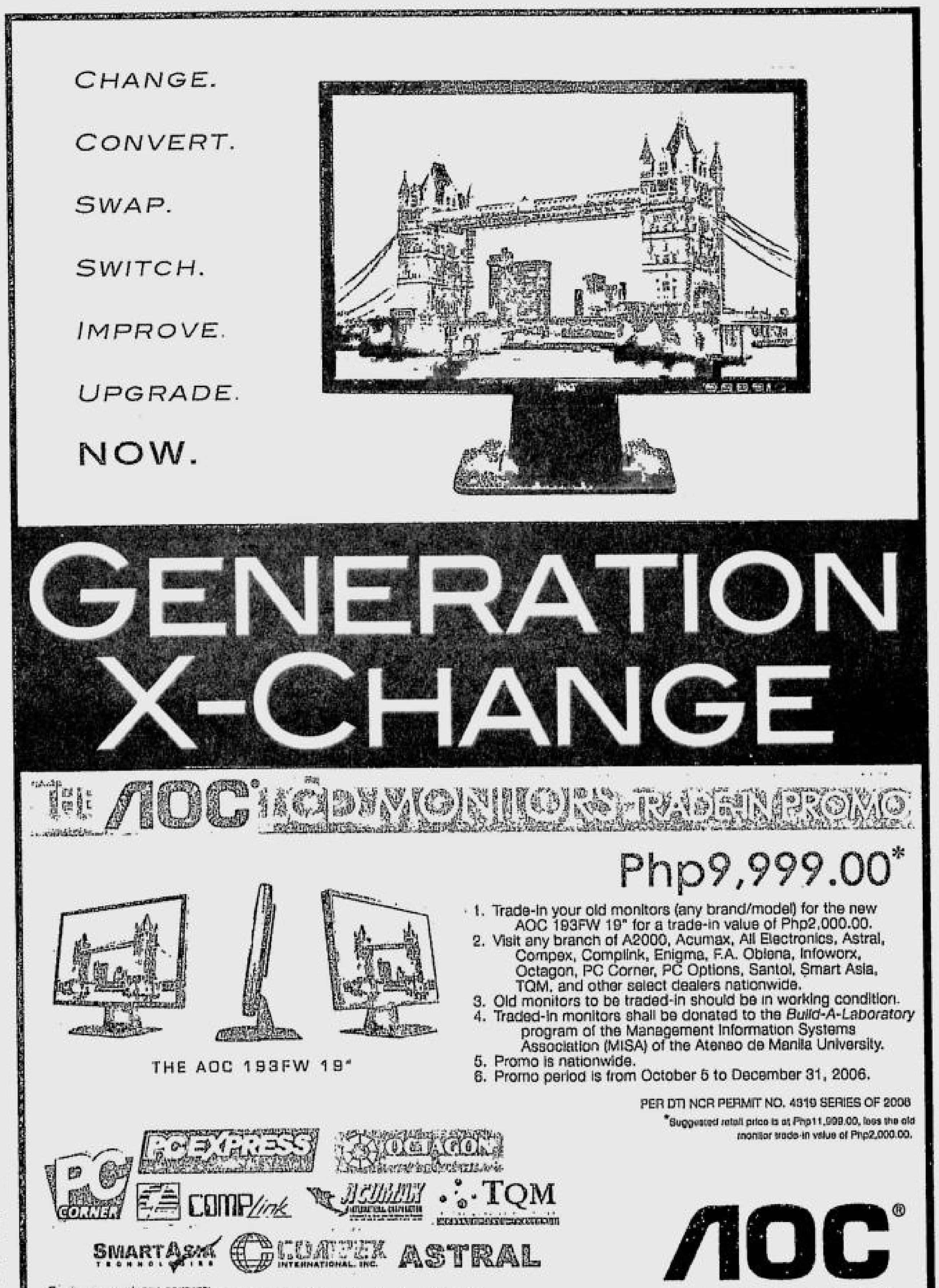
THE KONRAD ADENauer Asian Center for Journalism at the Ateneo de Manila University (ACFJ) will launch its program on photojournalism when it seals a partnership with the World Press Photo at a ceremony at 6 p.m., on Monday, Oct. 9 at the Ateneo Professional Schools in Rockwell, Makati City.

World Press Photo. the Netherlands-based global platform for professional press photography, will collaborate with ACFJ in some projects aimed to raise the bar for photojournalism in the country and contribute to the public's knowledge about it, according to a news release.

Among the projects are the 4-month Diploma in Photojournalism program to start in November and the annual World Press Photo Exhibition set for May 2007.

Keynote speaker in the launch is Shahidul Alam, the prominent Bangladeshi photojournalist and social activist who founded the Asian photography festival "Chobi Mela." His pictures have been shown in the world's leading galleries including the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

Ateneo president Fr. Bienvenido F. Nebres, SJ, and Netherlands Ambassador Robert Vornis will also speak during the inauguration.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Oil spill photos: Beauty in destruction

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
Iloilo City

BY THE END OF THE EXHIBIT ON Oct. 9, the 150 photographs on the oil spill in Guimaras have drawn hundreds, who would perhaps feel sorry for those affected or be enraged by the destruction.

The photographs were taken by members of the Photographic Society of Iloilo (PSI), a hobby group of 26 years, now led by Dr. Malbar Ferer.

Sixteen members joined the photo safari in Guimaras more than three weeks after Aug. 11, the day when MT Solar I, carrying more than two million liters of bunker oil, sank off Guimaras, releasing some 250,000 liters of bunker oil.

They have missed a lot but also saw much.

By the time the PSI members were in Guimaras, the coastal communities were busy with the clean-up, the shoveling and the collection of sludge. Almost gone was the thick, black blanket of oil that smothered hectares of mangroves and seagrass beds, and smeared white-sand beaches on populated areas. The clean-up had removed some unsightly marks of the disaster and prepared the place for a presidential visit due on the fourth week.

But the photographs revealed what culprits of the disaster would rather not have shown. Frames captured the dying mangroves, their leaves blotched with bunker fuel.

Fishing boats remained beached and covered by wilted coconut fronds.

No amount of wiping had removed the black stain off the beach rocks that now have a peculiar texture when photographed in available light.

Irony

Ferer said there lies the irony in their photographs.

"The challenge is how to represent the ugly but still be artistic about it," he said.

The exhibit also meant to educate the viewers on the ill effects of the oil spill on the coastal environment and people.

Ferer said that many Ilonggos only heard and read of the oil spill in Guimaras but never saw it first hand. Their photographs can speak a thousand words.

The 8 x 10-inch digital prints have marks of first-rate artistry as shown in their composition.

Carlos Garcia, who is part of the exhibit, said they did not air brush and manipulate the photographs. They worked like photojournalists, what they saw is what the viewers would also get.

The images were powerful.

Two young men who saw the pictures said they could almost smell the bunker fuel even if they haven't been to Guimaras. Others were seen shaking their heads as they contemplate the magnitude of the disaster.

The photographs have neither cutlines nor commentaries. The latter was reserved for artist Alan Rivera who said, the exhibit gives a "guilty pleasure of irony… of finding aesthetics in destruction… of seeking heaven out of black shores, of trying to decipher humanity in cruel and stupid acts."

PSI members also shot photos of themselves shooting people, objects and landscape, giving the public an idea of how they work, sometimes obtrusive, sometimes not.

The photographers are among the groups that visited Guimaras in the wake of the oil spill.

There were also photos of Army soldiers with their fatigue shovels, volunteers and many locals who were paid to help in the clean-up operations, some of them were made to wear yellow shirts, emblazoned "Ligtas Guimaras," courtesy of Petron Corp., who hired the ill-fated oil tanker to ferry the bunker fuel.

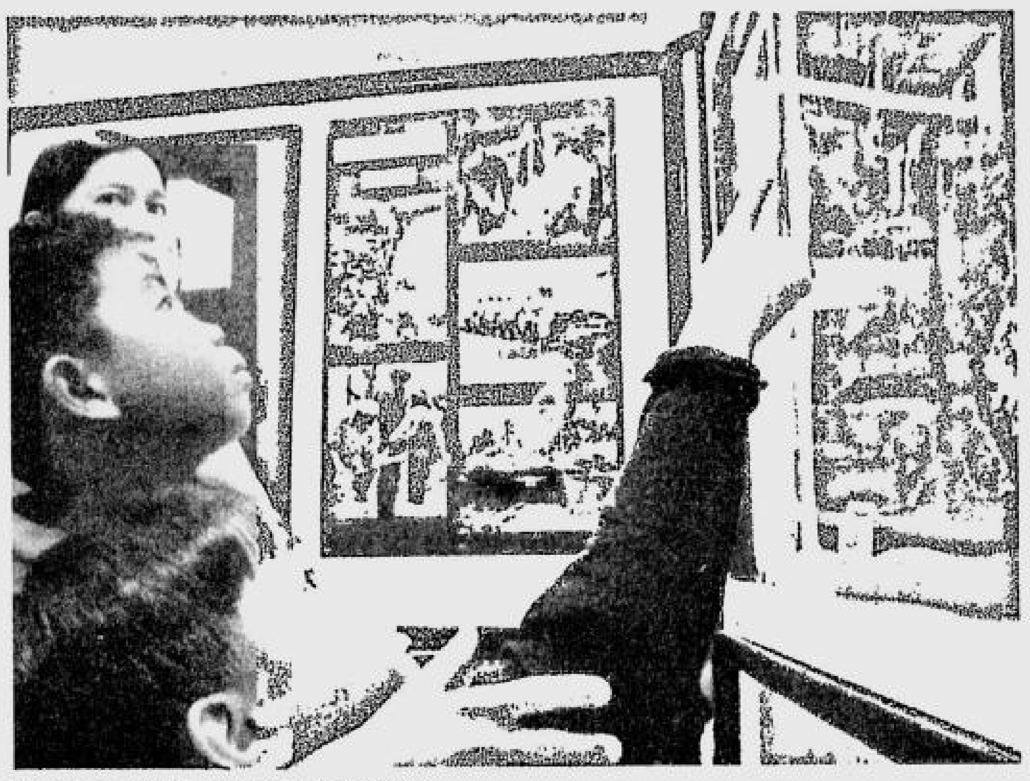
Aside from Ferer and Garcia, other members of the PSI included in the exhibit are Paul Go, Napoleon Sy, Therese Jarantilla Robles, Bert Onglamsing, Ma. Socorro Martinez, Daisy Catague Cababasay, Antonio Rojas, Vicente Pido, Alden Lim, James Trimañez and Neil Valera.

The group plans to return to Guimaras to visit the islands that were also affected by the oil spill.

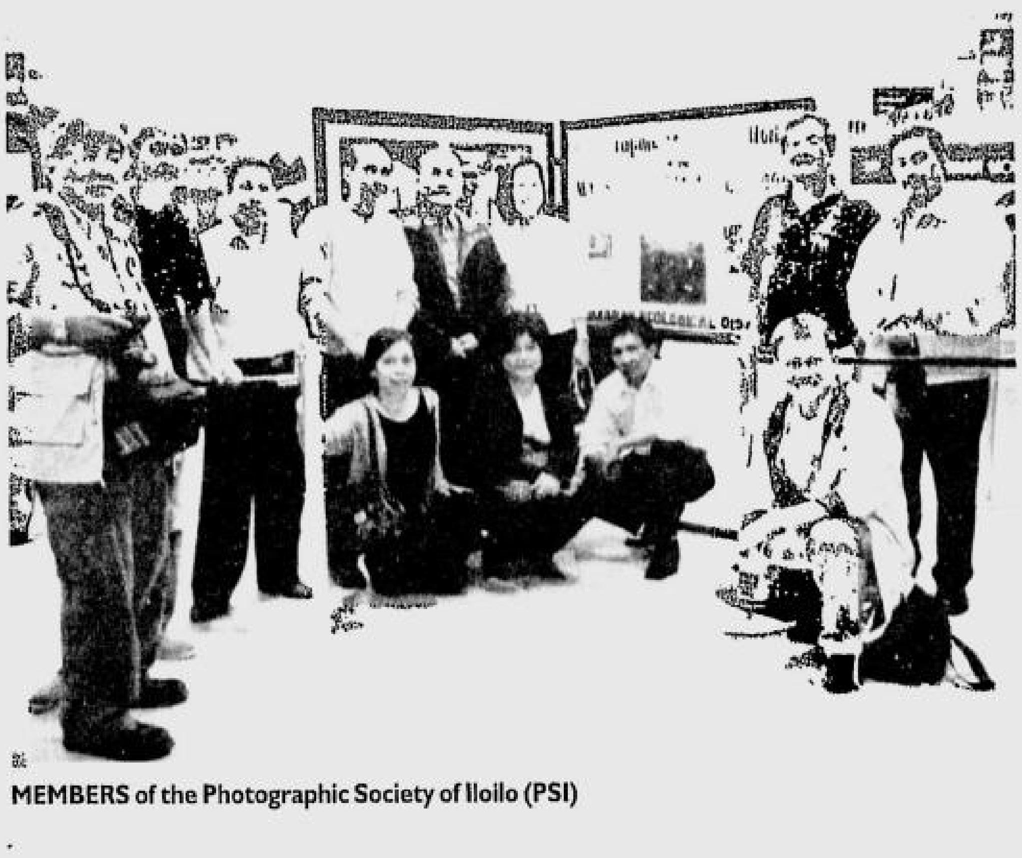
The exhibit, now in a mall in Iloilo City, will travel to schools, to other malls in the city and the upcoming national convention here of physicians.

MANGROVE smothered by bunker fuel.
PHOTOS BY ARNOLD ALMACEN / INQUIRER VISAYAS

> The exhibit gives a 'guilty pleasure of irony… of finding aesthetics in destruction… of seeking heaven out of black shores, of trying to decipher humanity in cruel and stupid acts.'



SCHOOL children viewing the exhibit.



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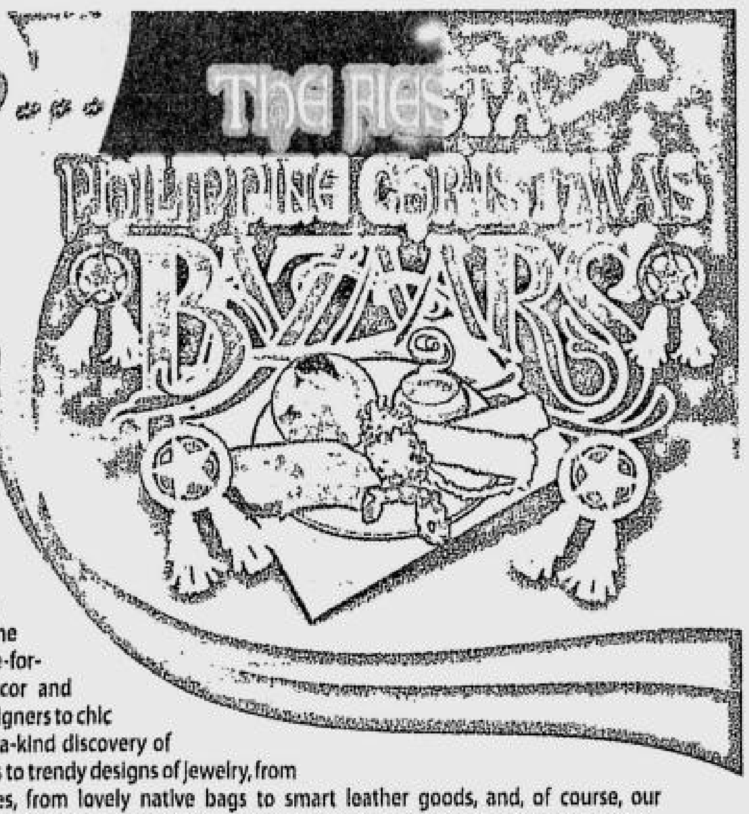
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BAZAAR	CONTACT	DATES	VENUE
Karl Edwards	3728453	October 7, 8,13-15, 21, 22, 28, 29 November 3-5,11,12, 17-19, 25, 26, 30 December 1-23 26-30	The Fort, Taguig
13th Philippine Toys, Gifts, Housewares Christmas & Decors Fair	8268182	October 6-30	Greenhills Shopping Center, San Juan, M.M.
Venture 7	78430507	October 8, December 3	Intercontinental Hotel, Makati City
American Women's Club	8177587	October 10, November 21	World Trade Center, Pasay City
Gawad Kalinga	8070611	October 14-15	Cuenca Court, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City
Casa Y Jardin	8430865	October 15, 22	Intercontinental Hotel, Makati City
Woodrose Family Bazaar	8429408	October 28-29	Cuenca Court, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City
Zonta Club Manila	9280512	November 5	Intercontinental Hotel, Makati City
Rotary Club Makati West	7533008	November 12	Intercontinental Hotel, Makati City
Christmas Bangketa Fair	7210572	November 15, 2006 to January 7, 2007	Greenhills Shopping Center, San Juan, M.M
Christmas Night	7210572	November 17, 2006 to January 6, 2007	Greenhills Shopping Center, San Juan, M.M.
Ayala Alabang Village	8070601	November 18,19	Cuenca Court, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City
Assumption Bazaar	8043601	November 19	Intercontinental Hotel, Makati City
International Bazaar	8324000	November 19	World Trade Center, Pasay City
Noel	6872965	November 24-26, December 21-23	World Trade Center, Pasay City
Marche International Bazaar	8444405	November 25, 26	Makati Sports Club, Salcedo Village, Makati City
Rotary Club Makati	8102860	November 26	Intercontinental Hotel, Makati City
St. James Bazaar	8423033	December 2-3	Cuenca Court, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City
World Bazaar Festival	6316350	December 7 - 17	World Trade Center, Pasay City

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Paraplegic radio man sues city vice mayor

OLONGAPO CITY—A LOCAL RADIO broadcaster filed harassment charges against Vice Mayor Rolen Paulino after the official allegedly threatened him inside his station's booth.

Nelson Marmeto, 40, announcer of radio station dwGO, said Paulino barged into the radio booth and threatened to hurt him while he was doing his program on Sept. 22.

Marmeto, a paraplegic, has been criticizing Paulino in his program for fabricating issues against Mayor James Gordon Jr.

The row between Marmeto and Paulino worsened after the broadcaster accused the vice mayor of preventing him from entering the city council's session hall recently.

Paulino said the attack prompted him to go the radio station and ask Marmeto to give him the chance to air his side on the issue.

In his affidavit submitted to the prosecutor's office here, Marmeto quoted Paulino as telling him: "*Alam mo, sa oras na ito ay gusto na kitang suntukin. Namumuro ka na sa akin* (You know, I feel like punching you at this moment. You will have it coming)."

Marmeto, who said he was surprised at Paulino's presence in his booth, refused to give in to the vice mayor's request. Marmeto instead announced in his program that he would allow Paulino to talk some other time.

He said Paulino had not been invited to his program and could not be accommodated for an interview.

"I have so much job announcements to read and we cannot suddenly allow the vice mayor to talk on air," Marmeto said in his program. "No one can threaten or frighten me."

Paulino said he welcomed the case but denied Marmeto's allegations.

"I went to the radio station to give my side of the story but I think it was misinterpreted," Paulino said. "I even carried him to his wheelchair."

Paulino also dismissed the allegation that he had prevented Marmeto from entering the council's session hall.

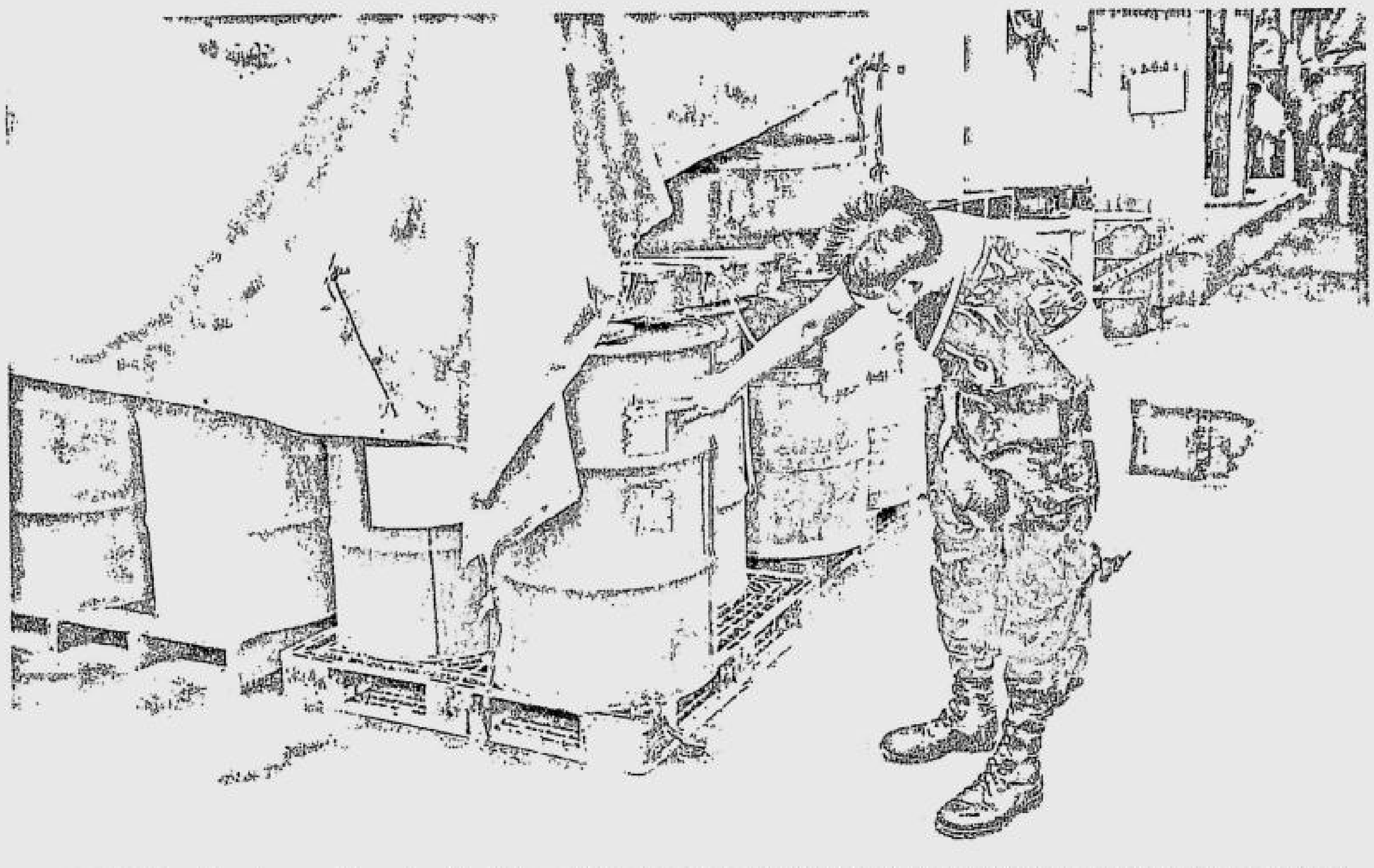
"I was, in fact, the one who asked one of my personnel to let him (Marmeto) in. I have nothing personal against him," he said.

He said the harassment case filed against him was politically motivated and was part of a "demolition job."

"I have never been engaged in any conflict with members of the media. I just wanted the truth to come out now because this issue has gone out of proportion," Paulino said. *Allan Macatuno, Inquirer Central Luzon*

RECYCLING FIRM

DENR raids Quezon toxic waste plant



A POLICEMAN wearing a face mask inspects a pile of drums believed to contain toxic wastes at the Clean Earth Solutions International Inc. (CESII) compound in San Pablo City.

PHOTOS BY DELFIN MALLARI JR./INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

SAN PABLO CITY, LAGUNA—THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has ordered the temporary closure of a company engaged in the recycling and disposal of hazardous waste on suspicion that the toxic wastes that were found dumped in Quezon province last week originated from the plant.

Roberto Sheen, regional director of the DENR-Environment and Management Bureau in Southern Tagalog, served the cease-and-desist order yesterday to an official of the Clean Earth Solutions International Inc. (CESII) in Barangay San Antonio I, this city.

The team, led by Environment Undersecretary Roy Kyamko and agents of the National Anti-Environmental Crime Task Forces (Naectaf), Tanggol Kalikasan (TK) staff, local environment officials, police and media, padlocked the gate of the compound.

The company was suspected of violating the Clean Water Act (Republic Act No. 9275) and the Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act of 1990 (RA 6969), he added.

A company official, who introduced himself as engineer Salvador Llave Jr. and a technical manager of the plant, said his company did not violate any law.

He was evasive in answering media queries regarding CESII operations. "We will explain everything during the scheduled technical conference," Llave said.

Found inside the compound were numerous steel and plastic drums piled atop each other, plastic square bins containing different kinds of hazardous wastes and stacks of contaminated rags.

In one area of the plant premises, workers wearing gas masks were seen putting hardened chemical waste in a sack filled with sawdust and sand.

CESII is included in the Aug. 31, 2006 DENR list of recyclers of hazardous wastes.

The company also operates another plant in Las Piñas City, Llave said.

The raid was prompted by the disclosure of spouses Sabas and Helen Ilagan, residents of Sariaya, Quezon, that the toxic chemicals that they have been dumping in several sites in the province originated from the company's compound.

Last week, DENR operatives and the TK staff discovered dumping sites for hazardous chemical wastes in the village of Mangilag Norte in Candelaria town and in the village of Concepcion in Sariaya at the foot of Mount Banahaw.

Village officials pointed to Ilagan as the one responsible for the dumping of the hazardous waste.

Ilagan, in his affidavit, a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER, said they have already taken out of the compound a total 2,500 drums containing different kinds of factory wastes since June this year.

The couple said the drums were being given to them for free by a person they identified as Salvador Llave Jr., who works at the CESII, on condition that they will be the one to dispose of its contents.

The two said they accepted the offer because of financial opportunities after they were assured that the drum contents will not harm them as long as they were buried under the ground.

The Ilagans said that once they dispose of the contents, they sell the steel drum that weighs 18 kg each at P18 per kg. The plastic drums cost P250 up to P500 each when empty.

The couple claimed innocence when informed that what they had been doing was against the law. "We're also victims here," the Ilagans said. The Ilagans said the CESII lets them pick up the wastes only when no DENR personnel are around.

Llave, however, vehemently denied knowing Ilagan.

He said the firm investigated the reports and found that several drums containing toxic wastes were missing. He said when they conducted ocular inspections in the firm's Candelaria and Sariaya dumps, they found some of the missing drums scattered in the area.

Lawyer Asis Perez, TK executive director, said Llave's statement was unbelievable. "His claim that they had been robbed of toxic drums was hard to believe," Perez said.

"If the company will insist they had been robbed of close to 3,000 drums of toxic wastes, it only shows their gross incompetence. They should have stopped operations for they would only endanger the lives of the public," Perez said.

Ramon de Roma, San Pablo environment and natural environment officer, also expressed doubts over Llave's statement.

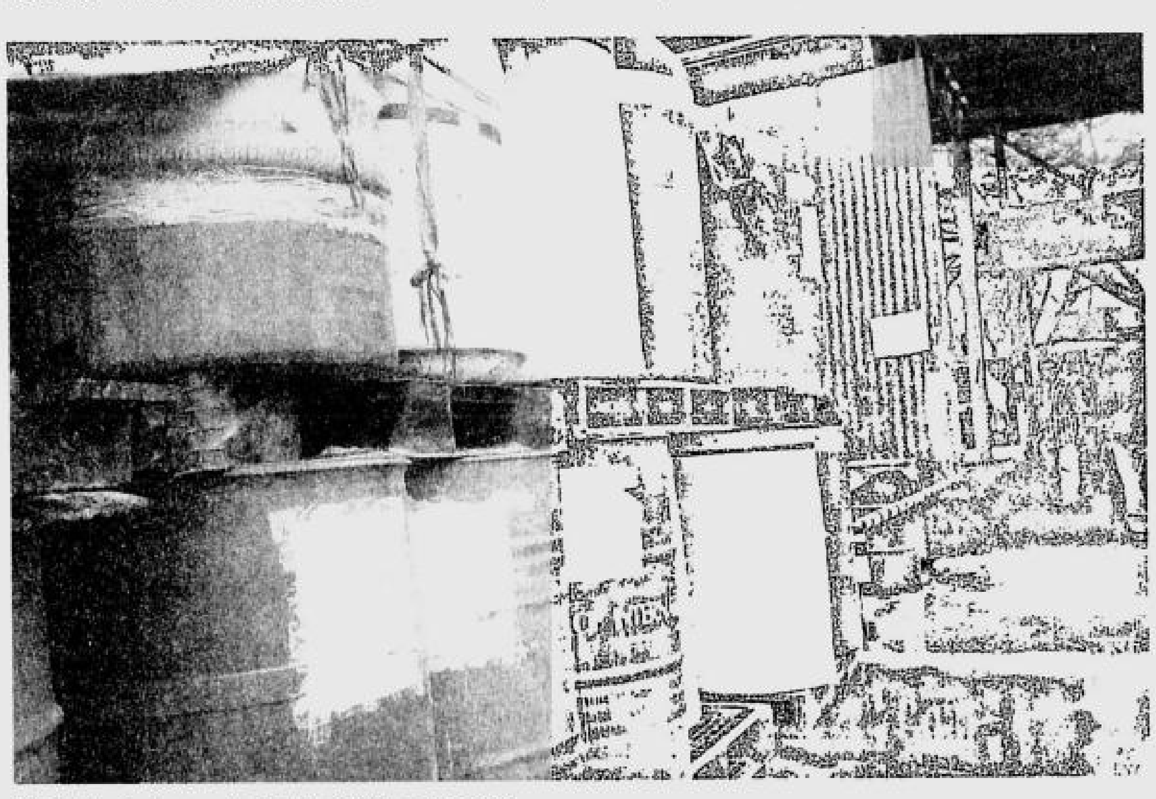
"If that's true they should have reported it to the police and to our office. But there's no report," he said.

The two dumps in Candelaria and Sariaya were found littered with hundreds of plastic and steel drums containing different kinds of toxic chemical waste, some of them spilling out into creeks and farms.

The dumps, inside coconut plantations, have several man-made pits filled with factory wastes. The chemicals were just being poured into the dumping ground and then covered when full.

Some of the containers have labels that read "hazardous waste" and have skull and bone signs. Some of the drums also bore marks of the Light Industry and Science Park and Procter and Gamble Philippines Inc.

But government authorities maintained that the tag does not necessarily mean that the waste products originated from the said firm and industrial park as the containers may have been reused by other parties. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*



MORE toxic drums inside the CESII compound.

Lawyer wants BCDA head accountable for losses

THE LEGAL COUNSEL OF THE joint venture firm that runs the Poro Point port sought sanctions against Bases Conversion and Development Authority chair Narciso Abaya for millions of pesos of losses incurred by the firm as a result of a government takeover of the port.

In a statement, lawyer Brigido Dulay said Abaya should answer for the losses that Poro Point Industrial Corp. (PPIC) incurred as a result of the takeover.

Abaya repeatedly said he allowed the takeover of the port by the Philippine Ports Authority to protect government interest and keep the port operations running.

"It is unfortunate that it was the president of our joint venture partner which moved heaven and earth to facilitate the armed assault on the flimsy excuse that PPIC was facing environmental issues," Dulay said.

Earlier, results of a fact-finding mission of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said there was no sign of coal pollution at the port committed by PPIC, but by one of the owners of a vessel that was using the port.

PPIC has estimated the losses to be P17 million.

But Dulay said these estimates do not include the amount of losses that was incurred by shipping companies and some 2,000 workers who depend on the port for their livelihood.

"Perhaps the losses could have been voided if General Abaya had opted to exercise caution and prudence...," said Dulay.

Dulay called for sanctions on Abaya as Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, regional development council chair for Northern Luzon, said he was offered by top officials of the PPIC an arrangement to share income to make him stop criticizing the deal that awarded the contract to run the port to the joint venture firm.

But officials of PPIC quickly denied Singson's statement.

"It was not true that anybody from the company talked to anyone about the matter. They [PPIC officials] did not approach anyone nor were they approached by anyone," Dulay said.

Singson said he rejected the offer because he wanted the government to earn from the venture. *With reports from Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes and Leoncio Balbin Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Canada backs efforts on common sermons in mosques

COTABATO CITY—THE GOVERNMENT of Canada is currently supporting an initiative that seeks to unify mosque sermons for Muslims through the Da'rul Ifta (Houses of Opinion) in the provinces of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

Jose Deles, ARMM area manager of the Canada International Development Agency's Local Government Support Program (Cida-LGSP), said the program aims to amplify Islam's peace messages through the most basic information medium, or conduit, for Muslims—the mosque sermons, called khutba in Arabic.

Deles said his group has been working closely with heads and members of the Islamic Houses of Opinion in Basilan, Lanao Sur, Maguindanao, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi and the cities of Cotabato and Marawi.

Ustadz Esmael Ibrahim, a senior member of the Da'rul Ifta here, said the unified Houses of Opinion in the five provinces and two cities has initially come up with six uniform sermons for delivery at local mosques during the Fridays of Ramadan.

Deles said not only must Muslims learn from the true teachings of Islam, but also people of other faiths should try to understand the religion, especially in a diverse society like the Philippines.

On the other hand, he said, local Islamic authorities believe that a uniform khutba is essential to peace-building efforts.

Da' rul Ifta authorities said the practice of delivering uniform sermons in Friday mosque congregations is done for the first time this month in the country. The same is the norm in Malaysia, and the delivery is even centralized in Saudi Arabia over TV network, by designated khateebin (deliverers).

Islamic authorities in the five provinces and two cities have designated six authorized khateebin to deliver each of the six sermons in key capital towns. The number of khutba copies translated in English had to be for thousands of other rural mosques.

They said the purpose for a uniform khutba was to professionalize Islamic sermons and achieve more responsible delivery and conventional interpretation of Islam's messages.

Ustadz Muhammad Sulaiman, one of the few local Muslim authorities with a degree in Luga (the classic Arabic language of the Koran), said he was offering for use in the program his works on Maguindanaon translation of the Muslim Holy Book.

Ibrahim said the program draws help from the Cotabato City Muslim Chamber of Commerce, and its initiators hope it would gain support from peace programs of the local government units, the basic partner of the Cida-LGSP. *Nash B. Maulana, Inquirer Mindanao*

MUSLIMS in Iloilo City pray at a mosque in observance of the Ramadan. Efforts to promote a better understanding of Islam are being funded by foreign donors, particularly Canada.

ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

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PHOTOGRAPHERS' LANE. Photographers from different background enjoy a photo shoot of a Dragon Dance during the opening of the newly renovated Hidalgo street in Quiapo Manila. Hidalgo has been the haven of photographers for so many years. REM ZAMORA

Photographers 'retake' their former territory

By Tina G. Santos

SEVERAL PHOTOGRAPHY ENTHUSIASTS took a trip down memory lane Thursday along the redeveloped R. Hidalgo Street in Quiapo, which is out to reclaim its title as Manila's photography haven.

For several decades—before the area was taken over by street vendors—R. Hidalgo Street was the place to go for whatever photographers needed, especially secondhand cameras and hard to find accessories, for their occupation or hobby.

Yesterday morning, city officials and members of photography organizations formally reopened the refurbished R. Hidalgo.

The street was closed to vehicular traffic to give people enough space to move around.

The makeover has turned R. Hidalgo into a promenade paved with colorful interlocking concrete blocks. It has been landscaped and, in the evening, lights shine brightly.

With the street's new look, photo companies and photographers have proposed the establishment of outdoor cafes where photographers can hang out. They also suggested the opening of photo galleries where they can exhibit their works and a library that will specialize on photography.

Vendors who were displaced by the rehabilitation of R. Hidalgo were promised by photography organizations that they would help train them in photography-related livelihood.

Mike A files more libel charges against Tulfo brothers

Another ₱22-M suit against Ramon & Inquirer editors

By Tina G. Santos and DJ Yap

FIRST GENTLEMAN JOSE MIGUEL "MIKE" Arroyo filed yesterday two more cases of libel against INQUIRER columnist Ramon Tulfo and the editors of the publication.

Arroyo also filed additional libel charges against Tulfo's brother, Erwin, before the Quezon City prosecutor's office.

Last month, Arroyo filed a P22-million libel suit against Tulfo and the INQUIRER for linking him to smuggling activities.

With his lawyer Ruy Rondain, Arroyo filed another P22-million libel suit against the same set of respondents before noon yesterday at the Manila Prosecutor's Office.

The other respondents are PDI publisher Isagani Yambot; editor in chief Letty Jimenez Magsanoc; managing editor Jose Ma. Nolasco; associate editor Abelardo Ulanday; associate editor for readership Rosario Garcellano; news editor Artemio Engracia; opinion editor Jorge Aruta; national editor Pergentino Bandayrel Jr.; and senior desk editor Juan Sarmiento.

Rondain said his client decided to file more cases against the respondents because of the continued publication of alleged libelous pieces.

"We were hoping that Mon Tulfo and the INQUIRER would stop publishing libelous articles, but they repeated it even after the first case (was) filed," Rondain told reporters. "Tulfo even appeared on TV saying he does not care (about) being sued. I guess he enjoys it."

In his complaint, Arroyo cited in particular Tulfo's Sept. 9 ("Use of naked power") and 12 ("I'd rather die than lose honor") articles.

Sought for comment, Tulfo said the libel cases "were just plain harassment. It's (Arroyo's) way of silencing me."

As for the additional libel charges against Erwin, Arroyo is demanding P22 million in damages and lawyer's fees. In a seven-page complaint, he accused the Tulfos of maligning his name in television interviews on ABS-CBN News Channel and GMA 7.

In the interviews, the brothers alleged Arroyo engineered the cancellation of their show "Isumbong Mo (Tulfo Brothers)" on RPN 9. Arroyo denied the charges.

The Tulfos also claimed Arroyo had illicit relations with Vicky Toh and was protecting her alleged smuggling activities.

Last month, Arroyo filed libel charges against the Tulfos, including brother Raffy, for allegedly defamatory statements made in a press conference where they bewailed the cancellation of their television show.

Pasay vice mayor suspended anew

Jocelyn R. Uy

SUSPENDED PASAY VICE MAYOR ANtonino Calixto said yesterday he would seek another temporary restraining order to stop the Office of the President from enforcing a new 60-day suspension.

Calixto was served the second suspension order Thursday afternoon through his legal counsel, Phil Ramos, barely two days after the Court of Appeals lifted for 60 days the six-month suspension order of the Office of the Ombudsman.

"This is already a form of harassment. I would not have minded if I committed a grave offense but I have not violated any law," Calixto told the INQUIRER by phone yesterday.

The 60-day preventive suspension, signed by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, was issued after four councilors—Allan Panaligan, now acting mayor; Arvin Tolentino, acting vice mayor; Marlon Pesebre and Jonathan Cabrera—filed a case of grave abuse of discretion against Calixto in July for allegedly refusing to provide them with enough office personnel.

Calixto said he was served the suspension order without an investigation by Malacañang.

He said he would file contempt charges against Panaligan and Tolentino for allegedly preventing him the other day from returning to his post.

Calixto was at the Pasay City Hall Thursday morning but found the door to his office locked.

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Taguig sees drop in dengue cases after 'Milenyo'

By Jocelyn R. Uy

TAGUIG CITY HAVE SOMEthing to thank Typhoon "Milenyo" for—washing away breeding grounds of dengue-carrying mosquitoes.

City health official Dr. Rolando Paac said yesterday there was a significant drop in the number of dengue cases after the typhoon hit Metro Manila last week.

From Sept. 27 to Oct. 4, only 19 cases, a 56-percent drop from the 44 cases recorded during the week of Sept. 22-26.

The City Health Office recorded 140 dengue cases from January to Sept. 11. By Sept. 22, the total was 182.

Despite the good news, Paac reminded residents to continue to take precautions and to keep their surroundings clean because dengue-carrying mosquitoes thrive after heavy rains.

Residents were instructed to discard old rubber tires or puncture them so they would not hold water.

Earlier, City Mayor Freddie Tinga called for a sustained drive against dengue particularly in places affected by flash floods brought about by "Milenyo."

PEACE KEEPER. Inspector Dennis Sumalibeng kisses goodbye his 3-year-old daughter Patrice. He left with rest of the PNP Peace Keeping Force for East Timor.

JOAN BONDOC

METROBRIEFS

Wais rally

Members of the Kaalagad Katipunang Kristiyano (Kaalagad) and the Franciscan Movement for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Commission, and the Eco-Waste Coalition held a peaceful assembly, as part of "Wais (Walang Styrofoam) Day", in front of the Citibank Plaza to ask McDonald's Philippines to reduce the use of styrofoam. McDonald's vice president for marketing Margot Torres assured the group the American franchise "is committed to protecting the environment."

Tarra V. Quismundo

Suspected gang members nabbed

Four suspected members of the "ip-it" gang preying on commuters in Muntinlupa City were arrested yesterday. City police chief Supt. Jose Mario Espino identified the suspects as Ariel Saliano, Agosto Aldozo, Danilo Alvarez and Janno Mendoza, all of San Pedro, Laguna. The suspects were arrested as they allegedly tried to snatch the cell phone of Abigail Cruz .

Jocelyn R. Uy

Alleged drug dealer arrested

Allan "Zenky" Madera, allegedly Makati's leading drug pusher, was arrested Saturday with one Emmanuel Lamera in Barangay Sta. Ana, Pateros. Makati Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado said with the arrest the city could can now focus on petty sub-dealers Madera is suspected to be involved in the 2005 slay of an anti-drug asset, Renato Ortiz, inside the Laperal Compound.

Tarra V. Quismundo

Jailed for a notebook?

Two young men are facing imprisonment for allegedly taking the notebook of a 14-year-old boy Thursday evening in Malabon City. Insp. Jorge Tabayag chief of the City's investigation unit said the suspects denied robbing a second year high-school student but had the victim's notebooks in their possession. The suspects were identified as Randy Tagana, 22, and Felix Cusaca, 18, both residents of Caloocan City. Taken from the student were a cell phone, six pieces of notebooks worth P12 each, a clutch bag and a baseball cap.

Nancy C. Carvajal

Tiangco says cops not above the law

By Nancy C. Carvajal

NAVOTAS MAYOR TOBY TIANGCO has asked Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, National Police district director, to see to it that the town's policemen obey the law. Tiangco was acting on reports of the town's Public Order and safety office (POSO) that policemen constantly violated local ordinances, particularly traffic rules.

He said he asked Bataoil to remind policemen they were not exempted from local ordinances.

POSO reported that policemen refused to be apprehended for their violations. The cops sometimes even threatened traffic enforcers while refusing to yield their licenses.

The mayor said usually violated was the ordinance on the wearing of helmet when riding a motorcycle.

Tiangco told the INQUIRER that the arrogance showed by some policemen who broke the town's rules and regulation deepened the animosity between them and local traffic enforcers.

"The incidents gave our enforcers considerable difficulty particularly when policemen refused to surrender their driver's licenses," Tiangco said.

Their being policemen did not excuse them from following local regulations, the mayor said.

"No one is exempted from following local laws. They (policemen) are supposed to help us implement the law but they are the ones regularly violating them," Tiangco said.

Tiangco said police officers must set an example for other people.

Bataoil, who has jurisdiction over the policemen in Camanava (Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela), said, " Everyone, especially policemen, must follow rules and regulations and no one must be excused from paying the penalties corresponding to the violation."

P.7M fake products seized

By Tina G. santos

SOME P700,000 WORTH OF counterfeit designer items were seized the other day from several establishments in Manila and Parañaque City.

Agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Intellectual Property Rights Division (IPRD), in a series of raids, seized 2,367 fake Prada bags and wallets from several stalls at the Baclaran Terminal Plaza in Parañaque; and Meisic Mall and Manila Textile Market in Binondo, Manila.

Charges of unfair competition are being readied against the store owners.

An example of man's inhumanity to man

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW much a man could be brutally cruel to his fellowman? Read on.

Ryan Sangalang, 23, escaped from the Cavite Provincial Mental Center in Tagaytay City a little less than a month ago. He had been in and out of the mental hospital since he was 19 years old.

Sangalang was walking aimlessly in Tagaytay City when he chanced upon a jeepney that was left by its driver with the engine running.

He was caught behind the steering wheel, taken to the police station, and booked for carnapping (car theft).

Sangalang is detained at the city jail along with other normal inmates. Apparently, because he had not taken any medication for his illness, he became wild.

That's when the jail guards or fellow detainees poured boiling water on him.

Sangalang suffered third degree burns in different parts of his body.

When a crew of "Isumbong mo kay Tulfo" (yes, we're still up and about and accepting complaints despite being put off the air) went to see him, they found him in great pain due to his burns.

The warden, Insp. Miguel Langcauon, didn't take responsibility for Sangalang's condition, pointing to the other inmates as the culprits.

Langcauon hasn't even sent the poor guy to the hospital for treatment.

Langcauon must be dense. He didn't consider the fact that Sangalang has been acting strangely from the first day of his detention—like throwing his feces around—and should, therefore, be transferred to the mental hospital.

Will somebody please help Ryan Sangalang?

***

Fouzi Ali Bondagjy, a Saudi national whom I've continually criticized for being an undesirable alien and who has filed several libel cases against me and my editors, claims he is "a law-abiding person" in his letter to the editors (Oct. 5, 2006).

This "law-abiding person" was ordered deported by the Bureau of Immigration on Jan. 28, 2004, for being an undesirable alien.

The immigration bureau, however, reversed its deportation order, saying it was "too harsh a punishment." He was instead ordered to pay a P50,000 fine.

On April 28, 2004, "law-abiding" alien Bondagjy was ordered by Labor Arbiter Elias H. Salinas to pay 10 overseas Filipino workers a total of $18,700 for their unpaid salaries in Saudi Arabia.

Bondagjy's recruitment firm, Mahal Technical Management Services, had recruited OFWs for Saudi.

On March 17, 1992, the Supreme Court ordered Bondagjy, through his other company Majal Development Corp., to pay a total of $27,376.88 to four OFWs who were not paid their salaries by a Saudi Arabian firm.

The Saudi firm recruited the workers through Majal.

That's how "law-abiding" Bondagjy is.

***

At the rate First Gentleman Mike Arroyo is filing libel cases against me, as well as inspiring other criminal cases against me, there will come a time when I won't be doing anything except attend hearings or trials.

If Mr. Arroyo thinks I'll be cowed, he has another thing coming. I'm enjoying the publicity and attention.

I hope Mr. Arroyo's seething emotions don't lead to a heart attack or a stroke.

I recommend meditation to my former friend to get rid of his anger.

***

I've finally gotten hold of a copy of a "white paper" naming journalists who are supposedly on the take from customs and immigration officials, as well as from alleged smugglers.

I can only sympathize with my hapless colleagues. I particularly sympathize with the women journalists.

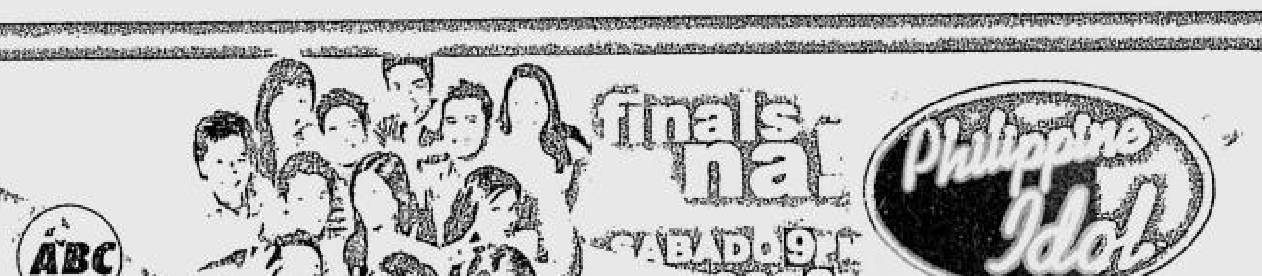
My brothers Raffy and Erwin and I have been victims of malicious, cowardly attacks from the very same person or persons who hide under the cloak of anonymity.

The white paper deliberately omitted our names so the suspicion would be on us.

The writer is a master of intrigues.

INQUIRER TV GUIDE

Saturday October 2006



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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5	Lizzie Mcguire		Kids TV	TBA	PBA On Tour					Teka Mona		Ripley's Believe It or Not		Philippine Idol			PBA On Tour		
ABS-CBN 2		Nagmamahal, Kapamilya		Let's Go		Star Magic Presents		Komiks		John En Shirley		TV Patrol World	XXX		Pinoy Dream Academy		Aalog alog		Sports Unlimited
AXN												The Contender (Season II)		House (Season II)				Supernatural (Season I)	
bTV				Sounds of Finals '06	NBA Europe Live 2006					NBA Rookies		NBA Jam	NBA Action	NBA Europe Live 2006					NBA Live
Cartoon Network		Camp Lazlo	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Powerpuff Girls	Robotboy	Teen Titans	The Batman	Justice League Unlimited	The Flintstones Meet The Jetsons, [illegible] /Ultimate Race			The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Power Rangers Dino Thunder/Gundam Seed Destiny	Gundam Seed Destiny	The Simpsons	Harvey Birdman (10:45PM)	Justice League	The Batman
Cinema One	Kung Ikaw Ay Isang Panaginip				Yamashita: The Tiger's Treasure				All My Life				Campus Girls				Reincarnation		
Cinemax			Sleepers (3:25 PM)								Devour			Housesitter					
CNN	Next@CNN	World News	Inside The Middle East/CNN Business Traveller/Global Office/Global Challenges	World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News	Living Golf/ Revealed/ MainSail/Art of Life	World News	World Sport	World News	Inside The Middle East/CNN Biz Traveller/ Global Office/ Global Challenges	CNN Presents/Quest	Next@CNN	Talk Asia	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart
Crime/Suspense		Masterminds	Forensic Files	Profiler		Psychic Detectives	Body Of Evidence	What Should You Do?		Prison Break/ Bones		Prison Break		E-Ring					
Discovery Channel				History		Power Zone				Perfect Disaster		Deadliest Catch				A Haunting		Perfect Disaster	
Disney Channel	Art Attack/ Billy & Buddy	Totally Spies		Kim Possible	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery/ Hannah Montana	American Dragon	Emperor's New School	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Mr. Bean/ Hannah Montana	Wonderful World Of Disney			Mr. Bean	Totally Spies/ Hannah Montana	Kim Possible	Martin Mystery	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		Classic Boxing		LPGA Golf John Q. Hammons Hotel Classic 2nd Rd				Major League Baseball Division Series						NFL Football Seahawks @ Bears					
ETC		Everwood Season 2		Friends 10	Will & Grace 4	Veronica Mars Season 2		The OC Season 3		Beauty and the Geek Season 2		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Saturday Night Live		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Trading Spouses		Today Show - 1 Hour - Version		Dateline		The Biggest Loser 2		NBC Nightly News	Hollywood One On One	Skating With Celebrities		Inside The Actor's Studio		ER		NBC Nightly News	WSJR
EWTN	Visionaries, Mystics & Stigmatists	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	Image Of God	Adventures In Odyssey	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Knights Of St. Michael	Catholic Compass		Life Is Worth Living	The World Over Encore		Daily Mass		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	The Word Was Made Flesh	Voices On Virtue	Backstage	Life on The Rock Encore	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Special Report With Brit Hume		Fox & Friends Saturday						Bulls & Bears	Cavuto On Business	Forbes On Fox	Cashin' In
GMA 7	Startalk				Wish Ko Lang (4:20 PM)		Fantastikids (5:20 PM)		Pinoy Pop Superstar		Bitoy's Funniest Videos (7:20 PM)		Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho	Imbestigador (9:05 PM)			Hokus Pokus (10:20PM)		Showbiz Stripped
Hallmark Channel		McBride: Murder Past Midnight			McBride: The Chameleon Murder			McBride: It's Murder, Madam			Supernova			Supernova (10:15PM)					
HBO				The Flintstones (Movie)							The River Wild			The Island				Entourage 21 Exodus (11:15PM)	Entourage 22 The Abyss
Hero TV	Mon Colle Knight	Shaider	Mask Rider Ryuki	Gransazers	Shaman King	Tales At North Hills High	Chrono Crusade	DNAngel	Forzal Mario	Love Hina	Super Doll Licca	G3	Voltes V Evolution	Hero TV Thinkbox			Mon Colle Knight	Shaman King	Tales At North Hills High
IBC 13		Home Shopping Network		EZ Shop	Auto Review	EBC Earth Files		Pangarap Kong Jackpot		EBC Earth Files		Japan Video Topics/ Ams		Bitag		Pilipinas Sabong Sports	Medtalk With Dr Z		
JackTV	My Name Is Earl	Always Sunny In Philadelphia	Arrested Development	Last Comic Standing		The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	The Daily Show Jon Stewart	X-Men	X-Men	The Batman	Justice League	Wwe Raw				Weekend At The D.L.	Reno 911	Insomniac With Dave Attell	Manshow
Lifestyle Network	HGTV Special		Napa Style	Sheila Bridges Designer Living	Radical Sabbatical	Simply Wine Andrea Immer	Inside Dish	My Country, My Kitchen	Emeril Live		Iron Chef America		Merge		How Do I Look		Style Star	E! Entertainment Special	
MTV Philippines	MTV Hits	MTV Arena	Diary Of Black Eyed Peas	VH1's 40 Greatest Celebrity Feuds				Cribs	My Own	The Hills	8th & Ocean	MTV Live Cycle Mind		Diary of Hoobastank	MTV Hits	MTV Hits		Jams	Rockola
MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Bandarito	MYX News	MYX Presents		Take 5	Radio MYX	MYXellaneous	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Live!		Pinoy MYX Countdown				MYX Backtrax	MYXilog
National Geographic		Amazing Moments		Relentless Enemies				Sea Hunters S4		Ult. Disaster: Earthquake				Fight Science				No Borders	
NBN		Telesyaryo Alas-Tres		Taas Noo Pilipino	The Working President	The Final Say, ChaCha		Lakbayin Ang Magandang Pilipinas		Youth Voice-Debate		Frontline Of Construction GSIS Member's Hour		Isla Hour On NBN		A.S.K.		Krusada Kontra Krimen	
Net 25	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	Quadriga	The Planet	Ang Mga Nagsi-alis Sa Daang Daan		Ang Tamang Daan		Net 25 Weekend Report	DWTV Journal Weekend Edition	Tribe	Convergence	Ang Mga Nagsi-alis Sa Daang Daan		Ang Pagbubunyag		Net 25 Weekend Report	In Focus	DWTV Journal Weekend Edition	Euromaxx
Nickelodeon	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	The Fairly Odd Parents	Catscratch	The X's	Danny Phantom	Trollz	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Dark Oracle/ Romeo!	Romeo/ Naturally Sadie	All That	The Brothers Garcia/ All Grown Up	The Fairly Odd Parents/ As Told By Ginger	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Digitalis				Hitman				Hindi Pa Tapos Ang Laban				Pusong Mamon				Room For Rent
Qtv		Lois And Clark		Galaxy Angels		Posh		The Return Of Wonder Woman		Ay!!! Robot		Day-Off		Sabado Showdown				The Final Cut	
RPN 9		Go Negosyo		Biyaheng Langit	Badminton		Man & Machine	Just For Laughs		Wwe Raw		CSI: NY		Oras ng Katotohanan		Sheperds Voice		Sony Music Video	
SBN 21								Barangay Uniting thru Chess		Sony Music Video		Oras Ng Himala							
Solar Sports		IBF World C'ships SFinals		FIVB Warsaw		ITZ		WNCAA		King of the Ring		Rookie Manual	Pinoy Rider	Muay Thai Kings of Square Ring					
Star Movies			Finding Forrester				Harold & Kumar Go To White Castle				Underworld (7:20PM)			The Princess Diaries 2				Hidalgo	
Star World				Miami Vice		Philly		Sons & Daughters	The Drew Carey Show	One Tree Hill		TNA Xplosion				JAG		Mutant X	
Studio 23								Sports TV	The Contender	7th Heaven (7:15PM)		The Bachelorette		Barkada Nights					Real Deal

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

WORLDBRIEFS

Thaksin's assets

BANGKOK—Thailand's corruption watchdog said Friday it will publicly release hundreds of financial statements filed by ousted premier Thaksin Shinawatra and every minister who served under him. The move is part of an antigraft drive by the junta that ousted Thaksin in a bloodless coup on Sept. 19. In one of the junta's first actions, the generals reinstated the National Counter Corruption Commission, which had been dormant for more than a year, and set up its own high-powered antigraft panel with the power to seize assets from Thaksin and other former officials. After its first meeting Friday, the NCCC said it would release the financial records, making public detailed information about the assets of billionaire Thaksin and everyone who was in his cabinet. The release will include 208 financial records running from the start of Thaksin's government in 2001, he said. AFP

NATO assumes command

KABUL—NATO assumed control of international forces across Afghanistan Thursday, taking charge of the east of the country from the US-led coalition that toppled the Taliban regime five years ago. The transfer saw 10,000 US troops who had been operating in the east under the coalition fall under the 37-nation International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), boosting it to about 31,000 soldiers nationwide. The event was marked by a flag-changing ceremony in the capital Kabul attended by Afghan President Hamid Karzai and the top commanders of both forces.

AFP

Kurdish lawmaker killed

BAGHDAD—A Kurdish lawmaker, along with his driver, was shot and killed here on Thursday afternoon. He was the first parliament member in the current government to be assassinated, officials said. The lawmaker, Mohammad Redha Mohammad, was an Islamist Sunni in the mostly secular Kurdistan Alliance, which represents the second-largest bloc in the Iraqi National Assembly. An Interior Ministry official said the two bodies were found by the Iraqi police just a few yards from offices of the Sunni Endowment, a government organization that administers Sunni mosques, in the northern Baghdad neighborhood of Slaikh, which has been troubled by sectarian violence. Both men had been shot in the head.

New York Times News Service

Hamas men jailed for life

JERUSALEM—An Israeli military court sentenced two members of Palestinian militant group Hamas's armed wing to life imprisonment for killing eight Israelis in a series of attacks, the army said on Friday. Ofer Military Court sentenced Jaser al-Barghouthi, a member of Hamas's armed wing Izz el-Deen al-Qassam, to eight life sentences to run consecutively for the killing of eight Israelis including soldiers. Murad al-Barghouthi received nine life sentences and an additional 30 years in jail to run consecutively.

Reuters

World powers hold crucial meeting on Iran

LONDON—THE SIX MAJOR POWERS confronting Iran over its nuclear ambitions hold a crucial meeting Friday in London that the US and Britain hope will lead to the drafting of a UN sanctions resolution next week.

After a flurry of diplomatic phone calls and signs of reticence from key partners in the group, the foreign ministers of Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the US agreed to Friday's gathering, officials said.

The encounter will cap off an extraordinary, weeks-long attempt by European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana to convince Iran to suspend its uranium enrichment program as demanded by a UN Security Council resolution.

Solana admitted this week that the effort had failed to sway the Islamic Republic's hardline leaders, who reject claims by the US and others that the enrichment program is aimed at producing fissile material for nuclear bombs.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Friday's meeting, which involves the five veto-wielding permanent UN Security Council members plus Germany, would shift the Iran effort from negotiations to punishment.

"What the ministers are going to do ... is to say 'We've done the Solana effort, and now we'll have to move to sanctions'," she said during a surprise visit to Baghdad.

Britain's ambassador to the United Nations, Emyr Jones Parry, said earlier Thursday that once the so-called P5-plus-1 ministers give the green light, discussions would begin at the UN next week on a sanctions resolution.

Britain "will be discussing with its partners and with members of the council the basis for action by the council to adopt measures under Article 41 against Iran," he said.

Article 41 of the UN Charter allows the Security Council to impose diplomatic and economic sanctions on member nations to enforce compliance with its resolutions.

But despite the confident statements from the US and Britain, there were no indications either Russia or China, both economic allies of Iran, had backed away from their strong reticence to use sanctions.

The two countries' foreign ministers were the last to confirm their participation in Friday's meeting, a senior diplomatic source here said, holding up a decision to go ahead with the gathering for several hours.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, on a visit to Warsaw Thursday, still showed little eagerness to move ahead with sanctions.

"We will continue with the diplomatic effort, even though some are in favor of sanctions as of now," he said.

Senior diplomats from the six nations who have been working on an initial package of sanctions to use against Iran will also meet in London Friday to pursue their work, the State Department said.

Washington has been pressing its partners to impose a progressive series of sanctions against Iran since Tehran missed an Aug. 31 deadline set in an earlier Security Council resolution demanding an end to uranium enrichment.

Iran, one of the world's major oil producers, says the enrichment program is to provide fuel for nuclear power plants. The United States and others believe it is to produce fissile material to make nuclear bombs.

Rice agreed at a six-power meeting in New York last month to give Solana until this weekend to convince Iran to comply with the UN resolution in exchange for a package of economic and diplomatic rewards.

Solana on Thursday admitted his efforts had failed so far and that "the time of negotiations of course is not infinite." Rice has said the US wants a graduated series of sanctions, to be implemented through multiple UN resolutions that would ramp up pressure on Iran if it persists with its nuclear program.

The first set of measures is expected to focus on preventing the supply of materiel and funding for Iran's nuclear or ballistic missile programs.

Other steps could include asset freezes and travel bans on officials linked to Tehran's weapons programs.

Even if China and Russia agree to the first set of sanctions, many analysts say the timid measures being considered would have little immediate impact.

"You can get a peanut of a sanctions resolution passed by the UN, but it won't be strong enough to significantly affect Iran's behavior," said Joseph Cirincione, a non-proliferation expert at the American Center for Progress in Washington. *AFP*

Food, not flowers, for Amish shooting victims

NICKEL MINES, PA.—AS IS CUSTOMARY in Amish tradition, guests brought food, not flowers. A hymn was read in 16th-century German, but there was no singing. The dead were laid in simple pine coffins and dressed in homemade white dresses, symbolizing purity. Two sermons were given, both in Pennsylvania Dutch.

Three days after a grisly attack on an Amish schoolhouse here, funerals were held Thursday for four of the five girls killed by a gunman who wrote of being forever changed by the death of his newborn daughter and driven over the edge by fantasies of sexually assaulting young girls.

The first of Thursday's services began at 9 a.m. in the woodworking shop of the father of the deceased, Naomi Rose Ebersol, 7.

"We are here facing the unexpected," said one of the two Amish pastors who spoke and whose remarks were relayed by a Mennonite minister who attended, David Nissley. "We know and believe that these girls are in heaven with the Lord Jesus Christ."

After the 90-minute service, about 300 men with long beards and women in white bonnets climbed into their black and gray buggies and clip-clopped in quiet procession to Bart Amish Cemetery. Along the way they passed the home of Charles Carl Roberts IV, the 32-year-old killer, who was a milk truck driver.

A few hours later, a similar ceremony was held in the barn of the family of the oldest victim, Marian Fisher, 13, who told Roberts during the attack on Monday to kill her and spare her classmates. And in late afternoon, the service for Mary Liz Miller, 8; and her sister Lena Miller, 7, got under way.

Another victim, Anna Mae Stoltzfus, 12, is to be buried Friday.

Roberts shot a total of 10 young girls. One was taken off life support Tuesday and brought home to die, officials said. Two others remain in critical condition and two in serious condition.

Since Tuesday, Amish mourners had attended viewings of the victims at the families' homes.

Rita Rhoads, a midwife who had delivered two of the girls who were killed, said that during the gatherings, in which caskets were open, young mourners were encouraged to touch the body.

"It is part of the realization that the person is no longer in the body, said Rhoads, a Mennonite who has attended many Amish funerals. "It's part of the reality of life."

New York Times News Service

A FUNERAL procession for one of the victims of the Amish school makes its way through the town of Nickel Mines, Pennsylvania, Oct. 5 near Lancaster. AFP

UN finalizes statement on N. Korea

UNITED NATIONS—UN SECURITY Council members reached broad agreement on Thursday on a Japanese-drafted statement that warns North Korea of unspecified consequences if it conducts a nuclear test.

The text is similar to the original and was negotiated by junior diplomats of the 15 council members. It was being sent to governments for possible changes before further discussions on Friday.

North Korea announced on Tuesday it planned its first underground nuclear test, saying its hand had been forced by a US "threat of nuclear war and sanctions."

The statement, first submitted by Japan's UN Ambassador Kenzo Oshima, urges Pyongyang to cancel its planned test and return immediately to six-party talks aimed at persuading North Korea to abandon its atomic arms program. *Reuters*

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US Congress to probe sex scandal

WASHINGTON—A US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ethics panel on Thursday launched an investigation into a sex scandal that rocked President George W. Bush's Republican Party a month before legislative elections.

The top Republican in the House, Dennis Hastert, apologized for the handling of lurid sexual messages sent by former party lawmaker Mark Foley to underage aides in Congress. But Hastert again rejected calls for his resignation.

With the Republicans in a desperate battle to keep control of Congress in the Nov. 7 vote, questions mount about when the Republican leadership found out about Foley's behavior and why it did not act earlier.

The House investigation comes on top of criminal investigations launched by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Justice Department and by officials in Florida, which includes Foley's home district.

The bipartisan House Ethics Committee inquiry said it had ordered about four dozen subpoenas for individuals and documents, including direct testimony from members of Congress.

Ethics committee chair, Representative Richard "Doc" Hastings, a Republican, said all of Congress had been "appalled" at reports of the suggestive messages sent by Foley to teenage boys.

The teens, known as pages, are one year from graduation from secondary school when they spend a semester in Washington acting as aides to members of Congress.

Representative Howard Berman, the ranking Democrat on the committee, said lawmakers wanted the investigation finished in "weeks." The committee will investigate Foley's sexual overtures to the teenage aides, over several years, and whether Republican leaders properly handled the ensuing scandal, House ethics committee chair Hastings said.

"Like all Americans, we are both appalled at the revelations of highly improper communication between former representative Mark Foley and a young man who came to know Mr. Foley while working here in the Capitol as a congressional page," Hastings said.

"Simply put, the American people, and especially the parents of all current and former pages, are entitled to know this situation was handled. And we are determined to answer their questions," he said. *AFP*

World top universities

Rankings by Times Higher Education

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2	Cambridge (Britain)
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4	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (US)
4	Yale (US)
6	Stanford University (US)
7	California Institute of Technology (US)
8	University of California Berkeley (US)
9	Imperial College London (Britain)
10	Princeton University (US)

Ranking based on:

- views of academics
- views of graduate employers
- staff-student ratios
- number of foreign students

Sources: AFP/THES 051006 AFP

Russia readies more sanctions on Georgia

MOSCOW—RUSSIA PLANS TO TIGHTEN banking and immigration controls on its southern neighbor Georgia, officials said Thursday, as the diplomatic crisis between the two countries showed no sign of abating.

"We have found that Russia's regions do not need Georgian citizens," Mikhail Tyurkin, deputy head of Russia's migration service, told a press conference in Moscow.

"Citizens of Georgia are not the best category of immigrants since they most often break the law," Tyurkin said, adding: "Why should Russia take in citizens of a state that hates it? We don't need that." An entry ban for Georgian migrant workers, tens of thousands of whom arrive in Russia every year, would require a change in the law and would not apply to tourists, businesspeople or students, a spokesperson said.

Russian parliamentary leaders were also quoted in newspapers as saying they were considering special laws to give President Vladimir Putin authority to impose banking controls on countries such as Georgia.

"We are talking about legislation that would allow the president ... to create a special regime for countries that follow anti-Russian policies," said Sergei Baburin, deputy speaker of the Russian parliament.

"The United States has the same law and uses it against Belarus," Baburin was quoted by the Gazeta.ru daily as saying after a meeting with Putin in the Kremlin on Wednesday.

Amid a continuing war of words, Putin warned Georgia on Wednesday not to use "provocation" and "blackmail" and Russia's parliament adopted a resolution threatening "tougher measures" against Tbilisi.

On Thursday he ordered a tightening of the visa regime for foreigners "who violate Russian law," without specifically mentioning Georgians, and vowed to "defend the interests of the population." Georgia's Foreign Minister Gela Bezhuashvili protested against plans to toughen up controls on Georgian immigrants, which he said "violated all international norms and principles" as "differing between people by their nationality is a sign of xenophobia." The crisis in relations erupted last week when four Russian officers were detained in Georgia on charges of spying. Russia evacuated embassy staff and severed all transport and postal links with Georgia. *AFP*

Defiant LA Times publisher sacked

IN THE LATEST CHAPTER IN A LONG-RUNNING drama at The Los Angeles Times, the nation's fourth-largest newspaper, the publisher was forced out Thursday, three weeks after refusing to make job cuts requested by his corporate bosses.

Meanwhile, the paper's editor, who had also refused to make the cuts, kept his job. The editor, Dean Baquet, said he agreed to stay because he was convinced he would have the chance to make his case anew for shoring up both his staff and his budget; a colleague said, however, that he could still leave.

Ousting the publisher, Jeffrey M. Johnson, enables the Tribune Co., the newspaper's parent, to reassert control over a renegade publication while averting further turmoil for now. Many of Baquet's senior editors were considering leaving with him if he were fired or quit.

The move also appears to delay the possibility that 100 people could be cut from the 940-member editorial staff in the next few months. Some cuts still appear likely, though possibly fewer and spread out over a longer period of time. Tribune, like most newspaper companies, has come under pressure from Wall Street to increase profit and revenue, even with circulation and advertising being weak.

Tribune appointed a new publisher, David Hiller, who met with Baquet after the company announced the resignation of Johnson, who was appointed publisher only last year. *NYT*

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NELBERT Omolon of SLR disputes possession with Arwind Santos of Air21.

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Realtors spill Express

Cabagnot atones for past indiscretion with big game

By June Navarro

HE LIVED THE ROLE OF villain. In a flash, Alex Cabagnot is now a hero, subject of praise and acclamation.

Cabagnot joined hands with Nelbert Omolon and sparked Sta. Lucia Realty's final push for a convincing 96-88 victory over Air21 last night in the Talk 'N Text-PBA Philippine Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

Orchestrating the plays with precision, the Realtors' sophomore playmaker drilled in eight of his 15 points in the decisive period, including a three-pointer at the top of the arc that doomed the hopes of the Express.

Omolon, who had 11 of his 16 points down to the final stretch, was the recipient of two nifty entry passes from Cabagnot that set the tone for Sta. Lucia's first opening-game victory in the last five seasons.

"This is a welcome game for Alex (Cabagnot)," said Sta. Lucia Realty coach Alfrancis Chua. "The prodigal son is back. He's a totally changed man."

During the off-season, Cabagnot left the Realtors' camp without a word and was seen playing in a summer league in the United States. It drew the ire of his team and the league as well.

Cabagnot was fined P20,000 by the PBA for seeing action twice for the Los Angeles All-Stars and was harshly admonished by Sta. Lucia governor Buddy Encarnado and the rest of the Realtors.

Last night, however, all doubts were quashed as Cabagnot totally made the Realtors a different ballclub from the previous season. Finishing dead-last last year, the Realtors have been ranked outside of the favorites.

"We're not considered as a team to beat this season," said Chua. "But we're going to climb to the top one game at a time. I'm not going to push these guys even in practice."

Dennis Espino had 15 points and 11 rebounds, rookie Mark Isip finished with 15, all of them in the first half, while top freshman pick Kelly Williams added 11 markers and 14 points.

Williams provided the highlight of the night with a one-hand slam in the second quarter after catching the lob pass from Cabagnot in mid-air that sent the entire coliseum roaring with approval.

"It's called waiting for the next dunk," said Williams. "But seriously, coach pushes us to our limits and I think it's good for the team."

The scores:

First Game

STA. LUCIA 96—Omollon 16, Isip 15, Cabagnot 15, Espino 15, Williams 11, Aquino 8, Bughao 5, Calimag 5, Catli 3, Mendoza 3, Duremdes 0.

AIR21 88—Santos 14, Telan 14, De Ocampo 12, Se 10, Tubid 8, De Ocampo Y. 8, Canaleta 7, David 7, Arboleda 5, Dimaunahan 3, Sotto 0.

Quarters: 30-30, 51-51, 71-71, 96-88

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Ginebra eyes No.2 vs TNT in D'guete

BARANGAY GINEBRA guns for a second straight victory when it takes on a Purefoods squad hoping to run its way to a first win in the Talk 'N Text Philippine Cup at the Lamberto Macias Sports Center in Dumaguete City.

The Giants are coming off a 108-99 defeat to the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals and hope to use their speed to upset the frontline-heavy Kings.

"Our quickness will be tested against the tallest team in the league," Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio said in an interview yesterday. "If we can sustain our running game, we'll be fine against Ginebra."

"They can give us problems with their speed," said Ginebra coach Jong Uichico, whose wards scored a 102-69 crushing of newcomer Welcoat on opening day.

The Kings will parade a virtual roster of All-Stars led by Erik Menk, Mark Caguioa, Rudy Hatfield, Rafi Reavis, Billy Mamaril, Rommel Adducul, Jayjay Helterbrand and 1996 MVP Johnny Abarrientos against the James Yap and Kerby Raymundo-led Giants.

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Morales bares secret how to beat Pacman

MANNY Pacquiao spars with Swede Shady Hamsho at the Wild Card gym as part of his preparations for his Nov. 18 fight with Morales.

NICK SAGMIT, PDI LOS ANGELES CORRESPONDENT

AFTER PLAYING IT MYSTERIOUS OUT IN Mexico's Otami Mountains, Erik Morales yesterday came out in the open to bare he would beat Filipino superstar Manny Pacquiao on Nov. 18 at the Thomas and Mack Center in Las Vegas.

The Mexican boxing idol said Pacquiao would be meeting a totally different Morales when they clash for a third time.

In an announcement at his own website Thursday, Morales, said people "will see a different El Terrible," who will show the old form that made him a multi-division world champion.

Morales also stressed that, this time, he won't be having weight problems in his rubber match with Pacquiao.

Morales stressed that he will win the fight easily.

"This fight is not about the money. This is to prove that I still have it, and I am fighting for Mexico," Morales declared.

In a clear dig at Pacquiao, Morales insisted that the Filipino's much-ballyhooed left did not hurt him in their second fight which the Filipino won by technical knockout last January to avenge a close but unanimous loss in 2005.

Morales added that he runs in the morning and spars in the evening under the watchful eyes of his father, Jose "Olivaritos" Morales.

The elder Morales has defied doctors' orders to stay out of the high-altitude Otomi, due to his diabetes, in order to closely monitor the training of his son.

Meanwhile, Pacquiao and Freddie Roach swore they can again beat Morales, although the trainer had reiterated that the Filipino should come into the fight "in the best shape of his life" as Morales will most likely fight like a wounded tiger to regain lost pride.

Buboy Fernandez, Pacquiao's Filipino trainer, said they are closely reviewing tapes of Morales previous fights for a fall-back strategy should the Mexican decide to resort to a hit-and-run tactic the way Marco Antonio Barrera did in winning his last fight.

Fernandez said they have a plan B to keep the Mexican from using the ring to his advantage.

Pacquiao had to take a day-off due to a little cold, but Roach said there was no need to worry as the Filipino hero was "a little ahead of schedule."

Pacquiao was scheduled to resume sparring yesterday.

Roach claimed Pacquiao appeared in terrific shape in his last four-round sparring.

Roach also announced for the first time that Pacquiao's right hook is coming along pretty well, "something Morales will have to watch out for." *Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor*

H. Centre five edges Spring Oil

BACCHUS/HARBOUR Centre-San Juan held Tagaytay Spring Oil scoreless in the closing minutes to prevail, 61-59, Thursday in the 2006 Spring Cooking Oil-NBC National Cup basketball tournament at the San Juan gym.

The Tagaytay Spring dribblers of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Mayor Bambol Tolentino led 59-52 with 4:33 remaining, but the Bacchus/Harbour squad of businessman Mike Romero and San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito shut them out the rest of the way.

With its second victory in as many games, Bacchus/Harbour-San Juan assumed solo leadership while Tagaytay Spring suffered its first loss in three games.

Kenneth Coyukang led an Juan's scoring but it was Allan Gamboa's three-point play which cut Tagaytay Spring's lead to four going into the last two minutes.

Rob Sanz, Danny Pribdhas and Gamboa then combined to shove their team ahead as Spring lapsed into errors.

The event is sponsored by Sulpicio Lines, Spring Cooking Oil, Nature's Spring, Molten, Holiday Plaza Hotel-Cebu and Prime Channel.

The scores:

SAN JUAN 61—Coyukang 12, Aquino 10, Gamboa 10, Williams 10, Pribdhas 5, Alminario 4, Sanz 4, Masbang 3, Sta. Cruz 3, Reroma 0, Retaga 0.

TAGAYTAY 59—Mallari 13, Genido 9, Capobres 8, Epondulan 6, Morante 6, Reyes 5, Neo 4, Finuliar 3, Tajonera 3, Barnson 2, Cuenca 0, Guiyab 0.

Quarters: 18-16, 32-35, 50-48, 61-59

UAAP tests NCAA today

GAMES TODAY *(Philsports)*
1 p.m.—UAAP vs NCAA (Jrs.)
3 p.m.—Side events
4 p.m.—UAAP vs NCAA (Srs.)

IT WILL BE THE BEST VERSUS the brightest when two coaches from two champion teams from two different leagues test each other's mettle as the UAAP and NCAA collide today in the Bantay Bata 163 All-Stars at the Philsports Arena.

Pido Jarencio of UAAP champion Santo Tomas seeks to complete an impressive stint as rookie coach when he tries to avenge the varsity league's humiliating loss in all fronts during last year's edition staged to help abused children of Bantay Bata 163.

Koy Banal of victorious San Beda, for his part, will bid to extend NCAA domination of UAAP by following its sweep of two all-star games and the 2-3 ball, three-point shooting and slam dunk side events.

"Coach Pido may still be on cloud nine but he knows Coach Koy well enough, he can't take it easy," says sportscaster Butch Maniego.

Peter Musngi, ABS-CBN's vice president for sports said the games are being taken as personal challenges."

SPORTSWATCH

Arcilla lead march of faves to semis

JOHNNY ARCILLA OVERWHELMED UNRANKED MICHAEL BASCO, 6-0, 6-1, yesterday and led the march of the top four seeds to the semifinals of the 2006 Abalos Cup Men's Open Tennis Championships at the NCMH outdoor courts. Arcilla, fresh off his victory in last month's Digos City Open, arranged a clash with fourth seed Albert Anasta, who downed No. 6 Yannick Guba, 6-3, 6-3. Second seed Rolando Ruel Jr. also advanced with a 6-0, 6-1 spanking of unranked Joseph Arcilla. Ruel will face third seed Alexander Lazaro, who won over wild card Joseph Victorino, 7-5, 3-1 (ret.).

2nd Pasa sectional meet up

THE SECOND LEG OF THE PHILIPPINE AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION'S (Pasa) nationwide Pilipinas Youth Swimming Cup series gets underway this weekend in three venues in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. Naga City will be hosting the Luzon meet while Dumaguete Aqua Center will be the venue for the Visayas competition. According to Pasa president Mark Joseph, Ateneo de Zamboanga plays host to the Mindanao edition with around 450 Pasa-registered swimmers, ages 9 to 17, entered in the event backed by Arena. "

Espinosa Cup fundraiser Oct. 20

THE DG DAN ESPINOSA CUP GOLF CLASSIC WILL BE PLAYED OCT. 20 AT THE Valley Golf Club's Executive course. Organized and conducted by the Rotary Club of Tandang Sora, the fundraising event for the less fortunate people of Quezon City will be held under the System 36 format with the field to be divided into groups A, B, C, D and E. Pagcor through Gov. Butch Francisco, CEO and president, Key Daquigan of RC Novaliches, RC New Manila East throughs. Chito Borromeo, PP Manny Santos of RC University District, South Sea Insurance through PP Ed Docena, PDG Mel Salazar of RC Diliman, PP Ed Sarmienta of RC Cubao, PP Jess Varela of RC Midtown Cubao and RC Tandang Sora have pledged their support in the event held in conjunction with the birthday of Gov. Espinosa on Oct. 19.

Calabarzon Chess Festival

FIRST ASIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND HUMANITIES (FAITH) IN TANAuan City, in cooperation with the Active Chess Center of Asia (Acca) will host the Calabarzon Chess Festival 2006 at Faith from Oct. 13 to 15. The Calabarzon Scholastic Chess Team Tournament 2006 for high school teams is scheduled Oct. 13. A team shall be composed of four players. The Tanauan Chess Open, an 11-round open active chess event, is scheduled Oct. 14-15. Among those expected to join are Grandmasters Eugene Torre, Mark Paragua, Joey Antonio and Nelson Mariano. For inquiries, call 893-8501.

San Beda booters tackle FEU

NCAA CHAMPION SAN BEDA KICKS OFF ITS CAMPAIGN IN THE TERRY RAZON Copa Filipina football tournament against Far Eastern tomorrow at the PhilSports pitch in Pasig City. The San Beda booters, who are gunning for their fourth straight NCAA title, set out as the favorites in the 3:30 p.m. game capping a doubleheader of the tournament held in honor of the late football patron Terry Razon. La Salle takes on Navy in the first game. Ateneo, La Salle, Pasargad, Air Force, Navy and Lions make up Group A in the elimination round while UAAP Selection, Kaya, San Beda, Far Eastern, Union and Army compose Group B.

GCAP derby Oct. 11

THE GENTLEMEN COCKERS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (GCAP) 5-stag derby series returns at San Juan Coliseum on Oct. 11. To be sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000, the fourth GCAP stagfest will feature 75 fights. Gerry Ramos (Against All Odds) and Otto Balboa (Otu-777) topped the third leg last Sept. 27. Action starts at 4 p.m. on Monday featuring the 3-stag elimination round. Allowed stags are those banded by GCAP-Labanan, LGBA, NGBA, GF-BAN, CVGBA, IGBA, Pagba, Migba, Tagba, BBC, GBAT, Cegba, KGBA, Bigba and Bakbakan. Call 0916-4763030 (Ariel) or 0917-8064758 (Neil).

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10am SHARP

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Ateneo tramples PMI

By Jasmine W. Payo

GAMES MONDAY
(UST Gym)
2 p.m.—Adamson vs UV
4 p.m.—UST vs JRU

THE ATENEO BLUE EAGLES PUT THEIR heartbreaking UAAP campaign behind to swamp Philippine Maritime Institute Admirals, 87-73, and clinch a quarterfinal berth in the Collegiate Champions League yesterday at the Blue Eagle Gym. Doug Kramer finished with 16 points and seven rebounds to power the Eagles' early charge against the Admirals, the wildcard entry that occupied the last 16th slot in the knockout contest.

The highly favored Eagles bowed to the Santo Tomas Tigers in the UAAP Finals series five days ago. But the tournament top seed remained sharp on court and easily erected a 22-point advantage, 44-22, in the second period. With head coach Norman Black in the United States, deputy Sandy Arespacochaga manned the Ateneo sidelines. "The team is okay, they're strong men," said Arespacochaga. "We only practiced for one day due to fatigue and academics."

The Letran Knights also joined Ateneo and opening-day winners UE and Mapua in the top eight after nipping University of Cebu, 81-71, in the first game.

Miko Quinday topscored with 16 points for the sixth-seeded Knights, who scored their first win since bowing out in the NCAA with five straight losses.

"We introduced a passing game," said Letran coach Louie Alas. "We made sure that, before we attack, we move the ball around."

When the Webmasters moved within 61-57, the Knighs clustered six points for a 67-57 edge.

The scores:

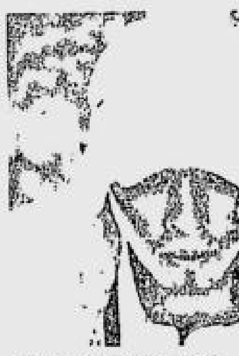
Second Game

ATENEO 87—Kramer 16, Al Hussaini 15, Monfort 12, Intal 10, Tiu 7, Barracoso 6, Quimson 6, Reyes 5, Escueta 3, Escalona 2, Uichico 2, Arao 2, Laterre 1.

PMI 73—Rodriguez 24, Catimbang 21, Castro 8, Sta. Maria 6, Ressurection 6, Sta. Maria 3, De Guzman 2, Castillo 2, Dimagiba 1, Dela Cruz 0, Rance 0, Fuego 0 Luto 0.

Quarters: 27-18, 49-32, 68-53, 87-73

Bayron catches Ababa on top



RUFINO BAYRON

SAN MIGUEL, BUKIDNON—RUFINO Bayron cushioned a quadruple bogey-7 on the sixth hole with an eagle and seven birdies on his way to a two-under-par 70 to catch National Caddies Open standout Jonel Ababa in the lead halfway through Samsung Amateur Tour at the Del Monte Golf Club yesterday.

One down at the start of the round, Bayron fell farther back when he dropped four strokes on the sixth hole. But the Davaoeño mainstay of the Calatagan squad rallied with a 34 at the back, spiked by three birdies in the last seven holes, to tie Ababa at 140.

Ababa, whose three eagles earned him a share the lead with Boboy Jaraula in the first round with 69s, lost the solo lead when he bogeyed the 18th en route to a 71.

Jaraula eagled the par-5 15th but holed out with a bogey as he settled for an even-par 72, dropping to solo third with a 141.

Army, Air Force dispute futsal title

ARMY AND AIR FORCE COLLIDE FOR THE championship of the elite men's first division today in the 2006 Adidas Futsal Championship at the Adidas SportsKamp in Fort Bonifacio.

The Airmen forced a deciding Game 3 at 6:30 p.m. after trouncing the Armymen, 8-4, in the second game of the best-of-three series last Sept. 9 at the Blue Eagle Gym in Loyola Heights, Quezon City. The Armymen took the opener, 6-5, also at the same venue.

Emelio Caligdong, who was limited to just a goal in Game 2, is again expected to lead the Airmen on offense, along with Ian Araneta and Edsel Bracante, who blasted home two goals apiece in the previous game.

Wushu bets win 2 golds

THE PHILIPPINE WUSHU SQUAD, powered by Rene Catalan and Benjie Rivera, finished second overall in the recent 3rd Sanshou World Cup in Xi'an, China.

Catalan and Rivera stamped their class anew to win their respective divisions in the tournament serving as a warm up for the coming Doha Games in December.

"The gold-winning effort of Catalan and Rivera is a big boost to our campaign in the coming Asian Games," said Eddy Tanteko, vice president of the Wushu Federation of the Philippines. "We hope that we could sustain the momentum we gained in the tournament."

The RP squad also captured two silvers and a bronze to underscore its readiness for the quadrennial event where wushu is one of the country's top medal hopefuls in the Asian Games following its 11-gold haul in last year's SEA Games.

In ruling the 48kg category, Catalan beat Vietnam's Van Van Linh while Rivera outpointed another Vietnamese, Nguyen Tri Quan, in the 52kg.

Winning silver medals for the RP squad in the tournament confined to sanchou practitioners were Eduard Folayang (70kg) and Rhea May Rifani (56kg) while Rexel Nagnhayna (56kg) settled for a bronze.

China expectedly asserted its might for the third time, winning 11 of 17 events in the event that attracted 20 countries, including the United States, Russia, Romania and Switzerland.

Subic hosts Touring Car races tomorrow

THE COUNTRY'S PREMIER RACE drivers aim to bolster their respective title bids at the resumption of the 2006 San Mig Coffee-Petron Blaze Cup Philippine Touring Car Championships tomorrow at the Subic International Raceway.

The long break gave the drivers time to fully prepare for the race, and that could change the complexion of the three-way battle in Group 1 among series leader Jody Coseteng of San Mig Coffee, Kookie Ramirez of Petron Ultron-SRA and Don Pastor of Bioactiv Team TEC.

Coseteng, who has 84 points, is eyeing his third straight sweep in the series sanctioned by the Automobile Association Philippines.

Ramirez is just eight points behind with 76 points, while Pastor is third with 56.

It will also be an interesting race in Group 3 with five drivers—Pacho Blanco and Matteo Guidicelli of Velocity Racing-Valvoline-Race Fans, Jeff Borja of Bosch-FS Steel Racing, Ulysis Maningding of Team Explorer and Nico Montinola of Akula Racing—closely bunched in the standings.

JODY Coseteng of San Mig Coffee (front) expects tough challenge from Don Pastor of Bioactive Team TEC (middle) and Kookie Ramirez of Petron Ultron-SRA on Sunday.

Que fires 70, lays 3 off pace in Taiwan

TAIPEI—FILIPINO ANGELO QUE fired a two-under-par 70 Friday to be in a five-way tie for fifth, three shots off new leader Gary Rusnak of the United States, halfway through the $300,000 Taiwan Open.

Que pooled 139, counting his 69 Thursday at the Sunrise Golf and Country Club.

Gerald Rosales birdied five holes on the way to a 69 for 141, in a tie for 12th place with seven others, including Canada's Rick Gibson and Scotland's Simon Yates.

Rosales' three-under round was later matched by Asian Tour rookie Juvic Pagunsan, who rallied from a 75 overnight to be eight shots off Rusnak at 144.

Pagunsan lay in an eight-man logjam for 34th place, along with compatriot Cookie La'O, who scored a second straight 72 for 144.

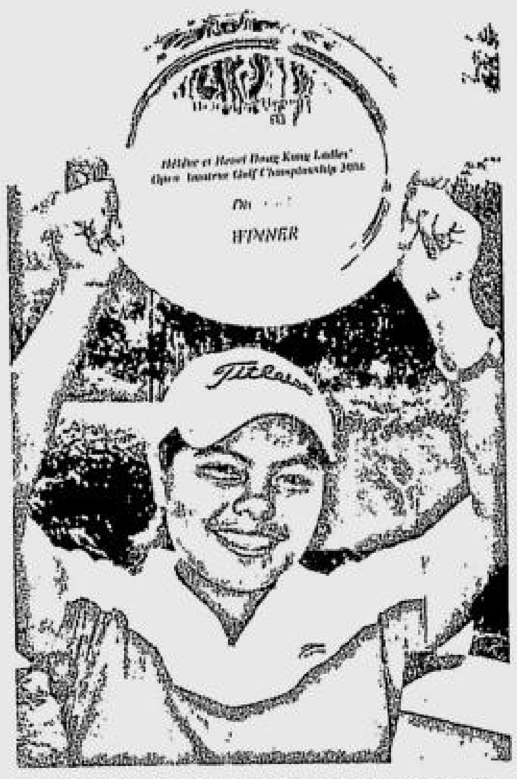
Jerome Delariarte improved to a two-under 70 after a 75 overnight for 145.

Only Artemio Murakami, who struggled to a 77-158, failed to get under the 36-hole cut—at 147—among the Filipinos.

Rusnak sizzled with a six-under 66 and stood on top with 136, one stroke in front of Australia's Pat Giles, who returned the same card for the day.

Chinese Taipei's Lin Wen-tang (68) and Australia's Kene Webber (71) lay another shot behind at 138.

Tour Order of Merit leader Thaworn Wiratchant of Thailand (69) was in Que's group that also included South Korea's Lee Sung (68), Britain's Yasin Ali (67) and Taiwan's Lin Keng-chi (70).



DOTTIE Ardina's nails her 6th overseas win.

Ardina, 12, rules HK Ladies Open

HONG KONG—TWELVE-YEAR-OLD DOTTIE Ardina scrambled with a seven-over-par 79 but held on to win the Hong Kong Ladies Open Amateur Golf Championship by two shots over teammate Cyna Rodriguez and two others at the Discovery Bay Golf Club yesterday.

Ardina, who seized a three-shot lead with a 69 overnight, survived the tough playing conditions, a triple-bogey on the third hole and a double-bogey on No. 18 for nines of 37-42 and a 220 total.

"I played bad because I could not hit the greens," said Ardina, whose shaky short game reared its ugly head for the last time on the 18th when she hit into the water fronting the green.

"I had to be defensive to protect my lead."

Rodriguez, who also finished second to Ardina in last month's Indonesia Open, blew her bid with an 8 on the par-4 10th hole and closed out with a 77 for a 54-hole aggregate of 222.

Former RP Ladies Open winner Carmelette Villaroman rallied with the day's best score of 74 to catch Rodriguez and first-round leader Chayuda Singhsuwan of Thailand (78) in second place.

The 14-year-old Rodriguez, who also ruled the 13-14 division in the Junior World Golf and the Asean Juniors, was ready to fight Ardina until she drove into the water on No. 10, reached the green in 5 and three-putted from 30 feet.

It was Ardina's sixth triumph abroad this year, punctuated by her romp in the 11-12 division of the Junior World in San Diego last July. The Canlubang youngster, one of the mainstays of the ICTSI golf program, also won the Asean Juniors, As-Pac Juniors and the US Kids Championships.

Other RP scorers: Bambee dela Paz, 79-235; Anya Tanpinco, 82-237, Linnel de Villa, 84-237.

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ABS-CBN BANTAY BATA 163

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CSB
GUIAO
UPHD
ORBE
CSJL
WONG
HEAD COACH
RAYMOND VALENZONA - SSC-R

UAAP JUNIORS
ADMU
AUSTRIA
GAMBOA
GONZAGA
KATIPUNAN
BALMACEDA
FEU
RIVERA
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LOPEZ
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REYES, J.
UE
DURAN
UP
ESPIRITU
HEAD COACH
POTIT DE VERA - FEU

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KOY BANAL - SAN BEDA

UAAP SENIORS
ADMU
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Gomez settles for 3rd round draw

NATIONAL MASTER JOHN PAUL GOMEZ SETTLED FOR A DRAW WITH CALVIN Jong Klaasen of Republic of South Africa in Round 3 of the 2006 World Junior Boys and Girls Chess Championship Thursday in Yerevan, Armenia. Gomez now has a 1-1-1 win-loss-draw record and 1.5 points. *NM Marlon Bernardino*

Tigers triumph, tie Yankees

NEW YORK—THE DETROIT TIGERS came back from two runs down to beat the New York Yankees, 4-3, and even their playoff series at one game apiece in Major League Baseball on Thursday.

Curtis Granderson hit a go-ahead RBI triple off Mike Mussina in the seventh inning to the cap the rally, and send the Tigers home with a split in their American League division series.

In National League playoffs, the Cardinals defeated the San Diego Padres, 2-0, and the Mets downed the Los Angeles Dodgers, 4-1, as St. Louis and New York each took 2-0 series leads.

In a game postponed by the threat of rain the night before, a somewhat stunned Yankee Stadium crowd of 56,252 watched the wild-card Tigers end a six-game losing streak since the final week of the regular season.

Game 3 on Friday in Detroit matches Randy Johnson and his stiff back against former Yankee Kenny Rogers.

At San Diego, even local star David Wells couldn't save the Padres, who appear to be headed for their same old playoffs fate against St. Louis.

Albert Pujols and Jim Edmonds hit RBI singles off Wells in the fourth inning and Jeff Weaver held the light-hitting Padres in check in five scoreless innings.

Game 3 is on Saturday at St. Louis. Game 4 would be on Sunday, if necessary, but history suggests otherwise. St. Louis, which barely avoided one of the biggest September collapses ever, improved to 8-0 in the postseason against San Diego. That includes division series sweeps last year and in 1996.

In New York, Tom Glavine, making his 33rd postseason start—but first since joining the Mets in 2003—tossed six shutout innings and New York scratched out enough runs to beat Los Angeles for a 2-0 lead in their NL playoff series.

Jose Reyes drove in two runs from the leadoff spot, 48-year-old pinch-hitter Julio Franco hustled to beat out a double-play ball for an RBI, and Billy Wagner earned his second consecutive save.

Two days earlier, the NL East champions lost Orlando Hernandez to a calf injury—leaving him on the sidelines with ace Pedro Martinez all postseason.

But now, they're one win from the NL championship series. *AP*

CARLOS Delgado of the Mets hits a single. AFP

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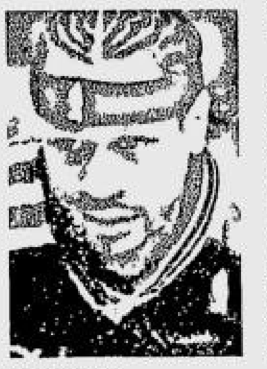
Spain squad stuns Sixers; Spurs score

BARCELONA, SPAIN—FC BARCELONA OUTplayed Allen Iverson and the Philadelphia 76ers in the second half to win 109-104 on Thursday, only the third time an international club has beaten an NBA team since 1988.

The Sixers have been in Barcelona since Sept. 29 for training camp and are one of four NBA teams taking part in the league's preseason in Europe. The exhibition game was the 76ers' opener in the NBA Europe Live tour.



IVERSON

Samuel Dalembert led Philadelphia with 21 points on 8-of-11 shooting, but the 76ers struggled from the foul line, hitting only 26 of 48 attempts. Iverson was 3-of-12 from the field and 7-of-13 from the line.

Six Barcelona players scored in double digits, led by Juan Navarro's 18.

"Barcelona has been great with the exception of the game," Philadelphia coach Maurice Cheeks said. "The city is beautiful. It's tough to lose to anyone, but when you miss 20-plus foul shots and make 20-plus turnovers, it can happen."

In Villeurbanne, France, Tony Parker scored 26 points and San Antonio Spurs beat Asvel Villeurbanne, 115-90.

Parker received a warm welcome from the crowd in a contest in which the Spurs were rarely threatened.

"It was good, although it felt a bit strange to play against a French team in the Spurs jersey," Parker said. "I wanted to play well because I am in France."

A broken finger kept Parker off France's team at this year's basketball world championship.

The Spurs next play Maccabi Tel Aviv in Paris on Sunday, as part of the NBA's European tour.

Also in Europe are the Phoenix Suns in Italy and the Los Angeles Clippers in Russia, though those teams did not play Thursday. *AP*

Cut officials, not athletes, from Asiad

By Marc Anthony Reyes

WHY NOT CUT THE NUMBER OF OFFICIALS instead?

That was the growing sentiment among several national athletes yesterday after news of a major cut-down on the Asian Games delegation size broke out at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

There are at least 100 officials who are in the official roster, including the secretariat and technical people from the Philippine Olympic Committee and Philippine Sports Commission.

They refused to be named but the athletes argued that if there's a need to eliminate people from the Asiad roster, the athletes should be the last to go.

The athletes have been training in full swing for the past year, said their fellow nationals, and taking some of them from the list could demoralize the rest of the contingent.

Asian Games chief of mission PSC chair Butch Ramirez said it was the POC which has the final say on who to bump off from the official list.

"The final say on this issue will come from the POC," said Ramirez. "It was their event."

POC first vice president Monico Puentevella said: "We can study several options. One is to eliminate teams and allow only individuals to go."

He was echoing the stand of the Asiad Task Force which immediately shot down the late appeal of softball to make the cut.

The Philippines has submitted 359 delegation members. Of them, 242 are athletes and the rest are officials.

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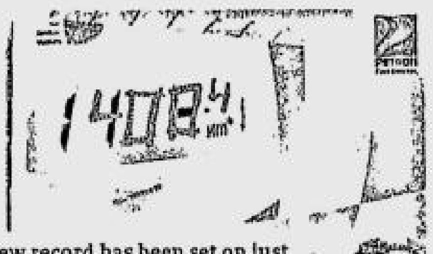


A new record has been set on just one full tank of Petron Xtra Unleaded.

Forex reserves hit all-time high at $21.56B

Boosted by OFW inflows, BSP purchases

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES' GROSS INTERNATIONAL RESERVES surged to an all-time high of $21.56 billion in end-September as the appreciating peso allowed the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to buy more dollars than necessary to service maturing foreign debt.

The latest GIR level was enough to cover about 4.3 months' worth of imports of goods and payments of services, according to BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr.

Tetangco attributed the sustained rise in the GIR "mainly to inflows from the BSP's foreign exchange operations and income from investments abroad, which helped mitigate the foreign exchange requirements for payments of the national government and BSP's maturing obligations."

The GIR—consisting of the BSP's gross foreign currency holdings, gold reserves, special drawing rights from multilateral institutions and foreign investments—is an indicator of a country's ability to service the foreign exchange requirements of the economy for importation and debt servicing.

The foreign reserve build-up since the start of this year was supported by pro-

FOREX/ B2

Customs exceeds 'sin' tax target

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS COLLECTED P560 million worth of additional excise taxes on imported cigarettes and alcohol products from the implementation of the "sin" tax law, surpassing its P541-million goal for the first eight months of the year.

Documents from the BOC showed that of the P560 million, P460 million was accounted for by excise tax on alcohol, exceeding its P315-million target by 46 percent.

Excise tax on cigarettes, however, was 56-percent short of its P226-million target as it collected only P100 million.

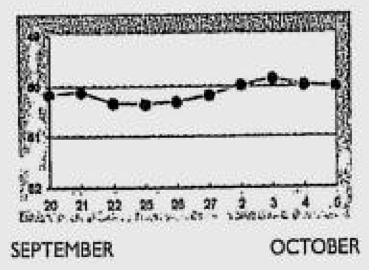
Revenue authorities said the reason for the underperformance in the collection of excise tax on cigarettes was due to a lower volume of imports as local manufacturers were believed to have maintained high inventories.

The Sin Tax Law or RA 9334 is one of the fiscal reform measures undertaken by the Arroyo administration to

CUSTOMS/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 50.01 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 6, 2006

¥ 118.00 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 6, 2006

GOLD: $572.50-573.00

per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 6, 2006

STOCK MARKET

Shares close flat

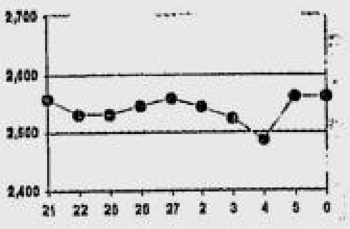
SHARE PRICES CLOSED FLAT yesterday, consolidating after sharp gains Thursday as investors took some profits in the absence of a fresh lead, dealers said.

The market struggled to hold onto early gains, they added.

The composite index slipped

SHARES/ B2

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



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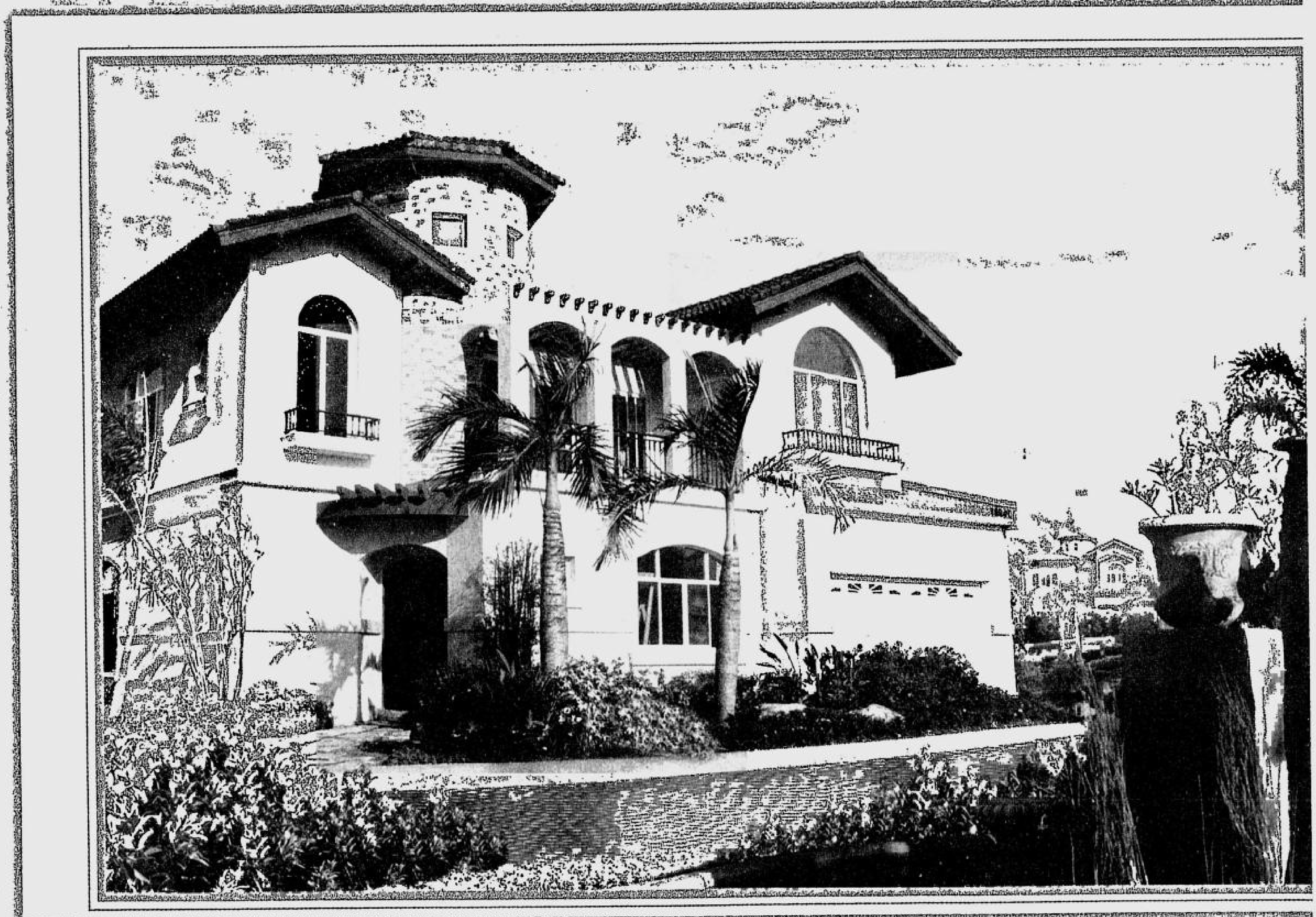
Brittany

OWN A REMBRANDT.



COURTYARDS II OF Portofino

This could be your best chance at owning a masterwork. The Rembrandt in Courtyards II of Portofino, inspired by the master, Rembrandt is a courtyard home that offers the elegance of an Italian architecture, the luxury of space, and the Old World romance of an indoor courtyard.

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BSP told to get tough on weak banks

Non-complying banks not likely to get concessions

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY Fund has cautioned the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas against giving concessions to banks that are unable to hurdle the shift to stiffer capital adequacy requirements.

In a draft report by a visiting IMF mission under its Post-Program Monitoring on the Philippines, the institution noted that with the regulatory changes imposed by the International Accounting Standards and Basel 2 capital accord, some banks may require longer time to adjust.

"The authorities were encouraged by several recent mergers between banks and by a number of banks issuing new capital," the IMF report said. "Even so, the regulatory changes underway were likely to be onerous for the weakest banks."

The IMF said a clearer picture of the impact of the IAS, and the extent to which some banks might require assistance, would emerge once the BSP had reviwed the IAS-adjusted financial accounts for 2005.

The report underscored "the importance of any regulatory regulatory relief provided by the BSP being transparent and conditional on a clear bank recapitalization plan."

The Basel 2 capital accord will be introduced in the Philippines in two stages. On Jan. 1, 2007, banks will be required to implement the standardized approach to credit risk and operational risks. In the second stage, effective in 2010, they will be allowed to move to the advanced internal ratings based approach.

Meanwhile, the IMF noted that bank lending remained sluggish even though banks were now disposing of their nonperforming assets.

"While the strengthening of risk management would lay the foundation for solid lending growth over the medium term, the authorities also pointed to the demand for bank credit being weak, especially from the manufacturing sector," the IMF said.

But the institution agreed that strengthening the banking sector was an important challenge. The banks at present are fragmented and saddled with high NPAs, with some banks even lacking in capital and loan-loss provisioning.

Previous IMF analysis indicated that deficiencies in accounting and loan classification practices had caused capital adequacy among some Philippine banks to be "overstated."

It noted that profitability improved in 2005, with strong securities and foreign exchange trading gains boosting net operating income and allowing banks to increase their provisioning and debt write-offs.

However, the IMF expressed its concern that legislative amendments that would strengthen bank supervision remained mired in Congress.

"Bank supervision would be given added teeth by amendments to the BSP charter that would provide legal protection for bank supervisors and allow them to increase pressure on banks to raise capital and facilitate prompt closure of problem banks," the IMF said.

However, banking regulators see little chance that Congress would be able to pass these amendments swiftly.

Among the proposed changes in the BSP charter, which were in line with the "forceful strategy" advocated by the IMF, were:

- To undertake risk-based consolidated supervision, which would allow the examination of banks as well as its subsidiaries and affiliates engaged in allied activities;
- To compel banks to infuse additional capital;
- To approve the transfer or acquisition of shares in a bank that would affect a change in the majority ownership; and
- To provide BSP officers immunity from lawsuits.

In the absence of the amendments, the authorities could engage banks facing difficulties at an early stage and implement corrective action framework, the IMF said.

Bank loans remain sluggish, study shows

DEMAND FOR BANK LOAN remains sluggish partly because of the pullout of some multinational investors, as well as the rise of less capital-intensive industries such as trading and business process outsourcing, a Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas study showed.

In a new report "Trends and BSP Initiatives on Improving Bank Lending Growth" prepared in time for the 2006 national competitive summit, the BSP traced the causes behind the modest growth of bank lending in the Philippines.

According to the study, the demand remained sluggish because of the "transfer of multinationals to regional hubs where operating costs are lower."

With the emergence of mainland China as a manufacturing powerhouse, many multinational companies had transferred operations there due to cheaper labor and lower cost of doing business.

The industries that are recently expanding significantly, trading and BPOs, were said to need less capital than if an investor were to put up factories here.

Another factor cited was the increasing consignment arrangement for exporters of electronic products.

Three other factors that led to the modest demand for loans were cited in the study: Excess capacity, highly liquid position of many enterprises, and tapping of domestic and foreign capital markets by some top corporations in order to obtain longer term funding for business.

On the supply side, the BSP attributed banks' lackluster appetite to expand their lending activities to the following:

- Large inventory of nonperforming assets;
- Cautious stance following economic and political uncertainties;
- Credit standards are not easily met by borrowers;
- Lack of extensive database; and
- Adoption of prudential regulations.

The sluggish bank lending has in turn caused a decline in the country's competitiveness.

In 2006, the country ranked 101th out of 175 countries in terms of ease in access to credit—slipping from the 96th place in the previous year, based on a World Bank group survey.

As part of an initiative to improve bank loan growth, the BSP has vowed to speed up capital market development to provide an alternative to bank financing, such as the promotion of the Fixed Income Exchange, third-party custodianship and unit investment trust fund products.

The development of the credit ratings industry, especially with the proposed Credit Information Systems Act, was also seen to benefit efforts to perk up bank lending by improving the database on borrowers.

Doris C. Dumlao

HK airline wants clear deal on Naia 3

By Riza T. Olchondra

HONG KONG AIRLINE CATHAY Pacific, which recently expanded with the acquisition of Dragonair and Air Hong Kong, said that it is looking forward to moving its operations to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) terminal 3 when it finally opens, but would want technical and legal conditions clarified before using the terminal.

Even if Naia 3 construction gets finished by the first quarter of next year—a government-set target date which the Manila International Airport Authority is struggling to meet—Cathay Pacific may need more time checking the quality of the facilities and making sure that its own lounge, for example, would please customers.

The larger capacity of Naia 3 would be a welcome development from terminal 1, said Philip Chen, Cathay Pacific chief executive.

"The additional capacity would certainly be good for our aircraft," Chen told reporters.

Also, Terminal 1 has become "rather tired," according to Country manager Vivian Lo. "And so, we are looking forward to the opening of terminal 3. But first we will, of course, make sure that terminal 3 is ready. When all technical and legal obstacles are cleared, we will then make sure we have a lounge that reflects the value-added service of Cathay Pacific."

Naia 3 is only 98 percent complete and the pending construction work could be done in about 8 months to the tune of $6 to $8 million, MIAA officials said in an earlier interview.

Officials had said the MIAA is rechecking the state of the facilities and equipment of the terminal. The airport authority is still in "final negotiations with the main conductor" of the construction work, which is Takenaka Corp. of Japan.

The contractor was tapped in June 2005 by MIAA to complete Naia 3 after taking over the project from the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco). The government released P3 billion in proffered payments to Piatco for the investments the company had made before its contract was voided.

Takenaka had stopped construction work at Naia 3 when the ownership of the terminal—and consequently, the question of who has the responsibility to supervise and pay for the project—became the subject of an intense court case.

Now that MIAA has secured the writ of possession following payment of the P3 billion, Takenaka has recognized the authority as the legal party to negotiate with and has agreed to complete the pending projects.

Ayala Land to borrow ₱3B in '07 to pay debt

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

REAL ESTATE DEVELOPER Ayala Land Inc. plans to borrow at least P3 billion next year to repay bonds that will fall due in April 2007.

ALI chief finance officer Jaime Ysmael said on the sidelines of the Philippine Real Estate Investment Trust forum at the Makati Shangri-la Hotel yesterday that the property giant was encouraged by the low interest rates it got on its P3 billion in debt paper issued last month.

"Depending on the market situation, it may be attractive to lock in long-term funds," Ysmael said.

"The 7.4-percent interest rate we got (from the previous debt issue) was really low. We are quite happy about it. Hopefully, the market remains as such so we can raise similar types of funding next year," he added.

ALI has a P3-billion bond maturing in April next year and another P2 billion falling due in 2008.

ALI closed its issue of P3 billion worth of fixed-rate corporate notes last Sept. 21.

ALI said the debt deal was met with strong investor demand and closed 1.5 times subscribed.

The five-year note was priced at 7.25 percent, the seven-year note at 7.375 percent and the 10-year note at 7.75 percent.

These yields translate into 0.55 to 0.69 percent below the five-, seven- and 10-year Philippine Treasury benchmark yields as of pricing date.

HSBC acted as sole bookrunner and lead manager for the transaction.

Proceeds from the issue will be used for general corporate funding purposes.

Buoyed by the strong interest in the property market, ALI is set to launch a new mall this year outside of Manila.

Details have yet to be revealed. It is also finishing its P6-billion 195,000 square meter Trinoma mall in Quezon City, which may open by May next year.

ALI is also expanding its Ayala Center Cebu by an additional 13,500 square meters, and will launch a business process outsourcing campus in Canlubang, Laguna next year.

The campus development spans 30 hectares and will include low-rise IT buildings, retail, commercial and residential developments.

Its 4,159-hectare landbank is enough for at least 10 years of development.

ALI is one of the largest and most diversified real estate conglomerates with interests in high-end, middle-income and affordable housing segments.

It is also involved in shopping center development and operations, office building projects including build-to-suit business process outsourcing facilities, business park and industrial estate development, hotel operations, property management and construction.

As of June 2006, ALI's cash stood at P6.9 billion, assets at P9.8 billion and total debt at P10.3 billion.

Forex reserves . . .

From page B1

ceeds from the government's foreign borrowings, remittances from overseas Filipino workers and, to a certain extent, foreign direct investment and portfolio inflows.

The strengthening of the peso against the dollar in the past few months alongside the bullish regional currency market likewise gave the BSP the opportunity to build up its reserves while smoothening excess market volatility.

The peso, which revisited the 49:$1 level for the first time in four years this week, has risen by nearly 7 percent since the start of the year.

Tetangco said the latest GIR level was also equivalent to 3.9 times the country's short-term debt based on original maturity and 1.9 times based on residual maturity.

Short-term debt based on residual maturity refers to outstanding external debt with original maturity of one year or less plus principal payments on medium- and long-term loans of the public and private sectors falling due within the next 12 months.

Net international reserves, including revaluation of reserve assets and reserve-related liabilities, reached $21.31 billion as of end-September, or $47 million higher than the previous month's $21.26 billion.

Shares close flat

From page B1

0.84 points to 2,560.22, after trading between 2,545.92 and 2,571.98.

Gainers led losers 64 to 49 with 45 unchanged. Turnover was 3.03 billion shares worth P3.47 billion.

"We saw cautious trading in the absence of fresh leads," said Rommel Macapagal of Westlink Global Equities.

However, he said overall sentiment remained positive, supported by good economic fundamentals.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., the most actively traded stock, fell P45 to P2,180 on profit-taking after recent sustained gains. *AFP*

Customs . . .

From page B1

address the government's yawning budget deficit. Taking effect in January last year, the law raised the excise tax rates imposed on cigarettes and alcohol.

Another reason cited for the lower-than-expected tax collection on cigarettes was the temporary restraining order issued by the Olongapo City Regional Trial Court in May last year on the law's implementation in Subic, where most cigarette and alcohol imports pass through.

The court opined that excise taxes could not be slapped on goods coming through Subic, being a freeport and considered outside Philippine territory.

The Office of the Solicitor General, representing the Bureau of Customs and the Department of Finance, filed an appeal with the Supreme Court, arguing that a court could not stop the government from collecting taxes.

The DOF estimated that the government stood to lose at least P3 billion in potential revenues this year should the temporary restraining order on the Sin Tax Law be in effect for the whole year.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 6, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	3,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	41.5	42	41	42	2,678,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	59.5	59.5	58	59	957,400
China Banking Corp.	640	640	640	640	4,480
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	600
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.42	0.42	0.41	0.41	1,660,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	66	66.5	66	66	76,700
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	41	42	41	42	1,361,300
Philippine National Bank	33.5	33.5	33.5	33.5	5,700
Phil. Savings Bank	42.5	43.5	42.5	43.5	13,400
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	18	18	18	18	10,000
Security Bank Corp.	51	52.5	51	52.5	161,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	45	45	45	45	3,800
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Bankard Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	170,000
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	5.4	5.6	4.65	4.95	3,416,000
First Metro Invest. Corp	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	5,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1580	1610	1580	1610	1,020
Pci Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	272,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2000	2025	2000	2025	400
Ivantage Corp.	1.44	1.44	1.42	1.42	1,055,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	50	50.5	49.5	50.5	1,157,500
First Phil Hldgs Corp	51.5	51.5	51	51	533,800
Manila Electric Co. A	21.25	21.25	20.75	21	240,100
Manila Electric Co. B	31	31	30	30	618,900
Manila Water Co. Inc.	9	9.1	8.9	8.9	2,459,000
Petron Corp.	4.1	4.1	4.05	4.1	3,095,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	950,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.02	1.02	1	1.02	60,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	136,000
Bogo Medellin Milling Co.	18	18	18	18	1,800
Cen Azucar de Tarlac	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	2,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	22.5	22.75	22.5	22.75	57,500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	37.5	38	37	37.5	1,358,400
Rfm Corp.	0.93	0.93	0.91	0.91	480,000
Roxas Holdings, Inc.	3.6	3.65	3.6	3.6	325,000
San Miguel Corp. A	65	65.5	65	65.5	153,300
San Miguel Corp. B	77.5	77.5	77	77	228,600
Phil Tob Flue Cur & Redry	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	15,600
Universal Robina Corp.	20	20	19.5	19.5	4,851,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1,720,000
Engineering Equip. Inc	1.94	2.04	1.94	2	3,793,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	1.52	1.52	1.5	1.52	107,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	5.5	5.7	5.5	5.6	2,201,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	11,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.54	1.62	1.54	1.62	249,000
CHEMICALS					
Corro-Coat Inc.	4.95	5	4.8	4.8	992,000
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	28,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	20,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.59	0.62	0.59	0.6	43,140,000
Macondray Plastics Inc.	2	2	2	2	22,000
Picop Resources Inc	0.15	0.155	0.14	0.14	4,910,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	1,000,000
Ayala Corp.	472.5	505	472.5	495	402,550
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.4	5.6	5.4	5.6	655,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.026	0.027	0.026	0.027	4,200,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.16	2.2	2.16	2.18	685,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.93	0.93	0.92	0.92	880,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp	3	3.1	3	3.1	138,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	29,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	72,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.34	1.38	1.3	1.3	16,062,000
Dmci Holdings Inc	4.05	4.2	4.05	4.15	5,253,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	20,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.75	2.75	2.7	2.7	3,358,000
House Of Investments Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.28	1.3	504,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.8	1,132,000
Keppel Holdings	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	7,000
Keppel Holdings B	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1,000
Medco Holdings	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	300,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	1.68	1.78	1.56	1.56	25,865,000
Pacifica	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	10,000,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	710,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	1,630,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.13	0.13	580,000
SM Investments Corp.	257.5	260	255	260	578,770
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	1,400,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	14.25	14.5	14	14.25	13,578,400
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.36	140,000
Belle Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	1,878,000
A Brown Company Inc.	1	1.1	1	1.02	718,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.34	1,180,000
Cebu Holdings Inc	3	3.1	3	3	2,442,000
C & P Homes Inc.	1.32	1.46	1.32	1.44	138,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	1.32	1.4	1.32	1.4	150,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	10,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.53	0.55	0.53	0.55	14,240,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	500,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	4,500,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.68	1.68	1.64	1.68	17,642,000
Gotesco Land Inc.B	0.1	0.16	0.1	0.16	410,000
Interport Res.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	20,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	10,000,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	1	1.12	1	1.12	40,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	1,100,000
City & Land Developers	1.74	1.74	1.6	1.6	61,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.72	0.78	0.72	0.74	9,120,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	2,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.94	1.96	1.9	1.94	29,039,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	3.35	3.4	3.3	3.35	246,000
Mrc Allied Ind. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.24	0.24	130,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	200,000
Polar Property Holdings	1.6	1.84	1.56	1.56	177,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	14	14	13.5	13.5	26,528,100
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	1,570,000
SM Development Corp.	1.82	1.84	1.82	1.82	487,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.7	8.7	8.5	8.6	1,912,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	100,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	17.5	18	17.5	18	302,600
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp	1	1	1	1	110,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Information Capital Tech.	5.2	5.2	4.5	4.8	50,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	1.36	1.44	1.36	1.4	75,057,000
Globe Telecom, Inc	1155	1155	1140	1145	252,960
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	4.75	4.8	4.7	4.75	1,689,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	2225	2225	2180	2180	467,280
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	1,400,000
Ionics Inc.	1.98	1.98	1.96	1.98	352,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	1,000,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	2,300,000
Philweb Corp.	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	153,700,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	3.5	3.7	3.5	3.7	89,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	135,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	17.5	18.75	17.5	18.5	352,200
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	40,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	30,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	5	5.1	5	5.1	1,288,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	2	2.02	1.98	2	3,975,000
Manila Jockey Club	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	47,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	200,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	20,000
EDUCATION					
Centro Escolar University	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	5,000
Ipeople, Inc	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.7	32,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	2.04	2.04	1.96	2	668,000
Paxys, Inc.	12.25	12.25	12	12	825,800
Prime Gaming Phils. Inc.	40	40	40	40	900
Philippine Seven Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	5,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	6.1	6.1	5.7	5.9	1,600,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	6.1	6.1	5.9	6	1,645,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.011	72,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	8.1	8.1	7.8	7.9	542,000
Benguet Corp. A	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	13,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.24	0.24	0.235	0.235	2,630,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.27	1,020,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.02	0.022	0.02	0.021	1,367,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.023	0.025	0.023	0.025	703,400,000
Omico Corp.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	102,000,000
Philex Mining Corp.	3.7	3.7	3.55	3.65	3,280,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	19	19.25	18.75	19.25	129,500
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.42	0.43	0.42	0.43	270,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.57	0.57	0.56	0.57	740,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	1,900,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.01	145,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	65,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.97	0.97	0.96	0.96	370,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	20,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	9.5	9.5	9.2	9.2	149,000

CURRENCIES

October 6, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.787650	1.000000	50.0400
Japan	Yen	0.006697	0.008502	0.4254
United Kingdom	Pound	1.480230	1.879300	94.0402
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.101152	0.128422	6.4262
Switzerland	Franc	0.629314	0.798977	39.9808
Canada	Dollar	0.699946	0.888652	44.4681
Singapore	Dollar	0.497253	0.631313	31.5909
Australia	Dollar	0.586267	0.744325	37.2460
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.089423	2.652731	132.7427
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.210017	0.266638	13.3426
Brunei	Dollar	0.495689	0.629327	31.4915
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000109	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.020965	0.026617	1.3319
UAE	Dirham	0.214460	0.272279	13.6248
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.269600	63.5308
Argentina	Peso	0.253876	0.322321	16.1289
Brazil	Real	0.364400	0.462642	23.1506
Denmark	Kroner	0.134141	0.170306	8.5221
India	Rupee	0.017273	0.021930	1.0974
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.213832	0.271481	13.5849
Mexico	New Peso	0.071474	0.090744	4.5408
New Zealand	Dollar	0.522383	0.663218	33.1874
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013014	0.016523	0.8268
South Africa	Rand	0.100994	0.128222	6.4162
Korea	Won	0.000830	0.001054	0.0527
Sweden	Kroner	0.107905	0.136996	6.8553
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023807	0.030225	1.5125

Solve labor mismatch, gov't, private sector urged

Japanese firms concerned over labor shortage, Jetro says

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO WORK more closely with the business sector to ensure a more even match between available workforce and the needs of the labor market, according to the recent study of the Japan External Trade Organization.

The study, dubbed "Comparative Survey of the Labor Environment in Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), China and India," showed that Japanese firms operating in these economies were mostly concerned about the shortage of personnel, increases in wages and strict employment regulations.

"To help reduce human resource mismatch and job-hopping, the governments and related parties are suggested to cooperate more with the business groups and learning institutions to create human capital with the right skills for jobs, such as foreign language ability and more practical skills," Jetro said.

Jetro said the poll was conducted between November 2005 and June 2006, and covered firms based in Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam, southern China and India.

The survey is part of Jetro's continuing cooperative efforts for better human resource development in Asean and is aimed at observing investment environment soundness in the region as well as encouraging authorities to help improve the business environment.

Jetro found that the Philippines, along with Indonesia, has a high rate of unemployment, with demand for general workers not enough to absorb the supply of labor.

In the Philippines and Vietnam, the labor pool has an advantage in the information technology sector, particularly in outsourced services, due to lower costs.

But Jetro said the country falls short on the supply of workers with technical skills—such as engineers and mid-level managers—as well as those who speak Japanese.

Further, Jetro said that while wages in the country and other Asean members were not rising as fast as those in China, "an upward tendency has been observed."

Two-thirds of the firms surveyed pointed to wage increases as their top concern.

They were also worried about allowances, such as lodging, security obligation and accompanying benefits.

Jetro noted the downtrend in the number of labor strikes in the Philippines and India, but also observed that most Asean countries have strict regulations in the firing of employees.

Still, the country fared relatively better than its neighbors, considering that "a company in Thailand said it could not recruit workers with the minimum wage and had to increase allowances.

"In the Philippines, firms could employ workers at minimum wage without problems," the study said.

Jetro said governments have a number of options to improve the soundness of the investment environment.

Expanding incentives, such as tax privilegea, to promote in-house training for employees could help the labor resource situation.

Another way is to establish more transparent labor-related systems that are implemented fairly, especially considering the advances toward economic integration in Asia," Jetro added.

The agency said such a system could prioritize the firms concerns about labor problems.

These include illegal strikes, dismissal (firing) systems that are too strict, and foreigners employment systems that are too "complex."

Insurance companies press for gov't perks

By Michelle V. Remo

LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES WANT government to extend additional tax incentive to encourage more Filipinos to opt for retirement plans.

Peter Coyiuto, president of the Philippine Life Insurance Association (PLIA), said that the industry particularly is asking the authorities to allow employers to use as a tax deductible expense their contributions to employees' retirement plans that are purchased from insurance firms.

According to Coyiuto, who is also president of First Guarantee Life Assurance Co., banks are currently allowed to sell retirement plans that carry such an incentive, but insurance firms do not enjoy the same privilege.

PLIA said this was the reason why only a few insurance firms sell retirement plans. The group said that if retirement plans sold by insurance firms were to be given the same tax incentives as the ones offered by banks, then more voluntary retirement plans would be made available for consumers.

To level the playing field among financial institutions, the incentives granted to the banking sector should also be given to the insurance industry, PLIA said.

PLIA said it was supporting the passage of a bill that seeks to promote voluntary retirement plans to the public.

The Personal Equity and Retirement Account (PERA) bill, which has long been pending in the legislature, encourages an individual to open a personal retirement account or pension plan with a financial institution, which could also be an insurance firm. The bill grants tax privileges to anyone who will open a PERA.

The group said the PERA would help create a level playing field because the retirement accounts to be offered by a financial institution, be it a bank or an insurance firm, would be given incentives.

The bill states that individuals with PERA are granted a 5-percent tax credit. The tax credit would mean that if an individual has P50,000 in his or her account, then that person would be allowed to deduct P2,500 (5 percent of 50,000) from his or her tax liabilities.

The bill also gives an individual the option to deduct the amount of PERA savings from his or her taxable income.

The PERA bill, authored by Sen. Edgardo Angara, is supported by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. The central bank believes that the measure would help mobilize savings and address the country's poor savings rate.

The savings rate in the Philippines, which stands below 30 percent of the country's gross domestic product, is considered low compared with the level of savings among its neighboring countries.

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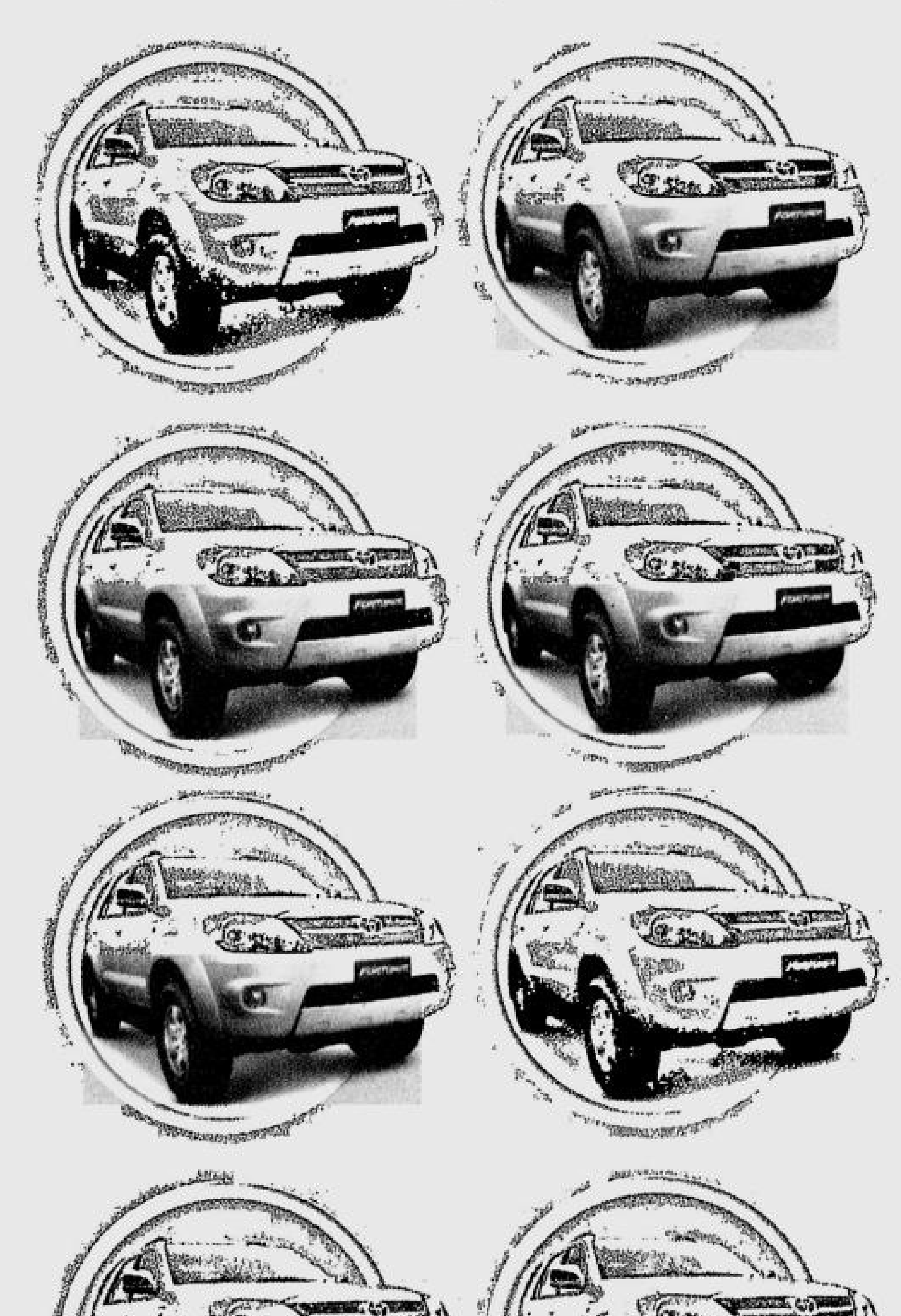

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TOYOTA
moving forward

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

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4 young environmentalists to represent RP in Germany

WANTING to make things right, these young envoys try to learn more on how to save the planet from further environmental degradation.

By Charles E. Buban

FOUR YOUNG ENVIRONMENTAlists are headed to Germany as Philippine representatives to the Bayer Young Environmental Envoy program, an annual event where chosen college students from all over the world go on a weeklong study tour to experience how environmental protection is practiced by people, government and industry in one of the leading countries with regard to technology and environmental awareness.

This year's batch of winners is composed of Alfredo Gersava Jr. of Sultan Kudarat State Polytechnic College, Leonardo Udasco Jr. of Nueva Vizcaya State University, Janus Le-an Dellava and John Ryan Recabar, both from the University of the Philippines in the Visayas.

"For the first time, these winners have competed beyond the merits of their project ideas for protecting the environment. They have actually been required to implement their project ideas within a given period of time and at the same time presented before the panel of judges, the outcomes of their respective projects, the challenges faced, and how each have managed to overcome obstacles," said Joseph Reynolds, Bayer CropScience Philippines country head during last week's awarding ceremony at the Hotel InterContinental Manila in Makati.

Rice hull cement bonded blocks

Gersava won the judges' nods for coming up with a technology for making rice hull cement bonded block, which were later used by the communities of Gawad Kalinga in Sultan Kudarat. His technology not only provided livelihood but also cut the cost of construction materials.

Udasco promoted vermicomposting (use of earthworms to turn organic wastes into very high-quality compost) as an alternative to converting agricultural wastes into organic fertilizers while Dellava on his part, developed a device that converts residual plastic wastes into vegetable pots for use in urban gardening.

Racabar, on the other hand, launched an antisoil erosion campaign to educate townsfolk about the risks of soil erosion in his hometown in Polomolok, South Cotabato and in the process brought the community and private sector together to address the issue.

The four winners were chosen out of the 13 "environmental envoys" who went on a four-day Eco-Camp in Clark Field, Pampanga.

At the end of the Eco-Camp, the panel of judges composed of INQUIRER's Rina Jimenez-David, Mother Earth Philippines' Odette Alcantara, Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretary Manuel Gerochi, Department of Science and Technology's Reynaldo Esguerra and TV host and former National Youth Commission chair Bambam Aquino evaluated each envoy's completed project.

Join counterparts

The four chosen will join their counterparts from Brazil, China, Columbia, Equador, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Korea, Malaysia, Peru, Poland, Singapore, Thailand, Venezuela and Vietnam in Germany early next month.

Since the establishment of the program, more than 5,000 young people have submitted outstanding applications to take part in the all-expense paid trip and 200 environmental envoys were fortunate to have been chosen in the course of the program.

"But the program doesn't end with the visit to Germany as the chosen representatives, not only in the Philippines, have demonstrated a continued passion for the environment long after their graduation from college, thus contributing not only to the community, but also to society as a whole," Bayer (Southeast Asia) corporate communications head Dorothy Claro said.

She explained that the BYEE program is the flagship initiative of Bayer and the United Nations Environmental Program (Unep).

"In cooperation with Unep, Bayer organizes and promotes a number of specific projects which aim to improve knowledge about the environment among young people and support them in their environmental commitment and the BYEE program is just one of these projects," Claro said.

Initiated in 1998 as a local project in Thailand, the program included participants from the Philippines and Singapore starting 2001.

"The program was further extended to India in 2002, China in 2003, and Poland, Indonesia, Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela and Ecuador in 2004, and Peru as well as Kenya in 2005. In 2006, Vietnam and Malaysia join the program for the first time," Bayer Philippines corporate communications officer Reynaldo Cutanda related.

Dementia

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

DR. MON MARASIGAN, A WELL-respected neuropsychiatrist based at the Santo Tomas University, is one of the staunch advocates in the public education campaign to draw more awareness on a problem which literally erodes one's mental function.

Nothing can be more disheartening for a physician than to treat someone noted for his erudition and intellectual brilliance, slowly losing his mental faculties because of dementia.

Dementia is defined as a progressive deterioration in intellectual function and other cognitive skills, such that the individual loses his ability to perform even simple activities of daily living. It is one of the most common causes of hospitalization and death among the elderly.

Prevalence

It's unfortunate that at the onset when signs of dementia are relatively mild, people consider it as part of the aging process. It usually creeps in insidiously starting at the age of 60 although it may occur at an earlier age in others. Dementia researchers report that the prevalence of dementia doubles every five years after age 60 until about age 90. Dementia affects only one percent of people aged 60 to 64 but 30 to 50 percent of those 85 years old or older.

Age-related memory loss though does not necessarily suggest dementia. The former is much milder, not progressive, and there is no impairment in the ability to perform daily activities. In people with age-related memory loss, cognitive performance such as analytical abilities is essentially unimpaired, but they may be considerably slowed down. They learn new information and recall previously learned information but do so less efficiently as when they were much younger. But the important thing is that daily functioning is unaffected.

Although most people with memory impairment need not worry, they should also have themselves checked if it becomes rapidly progressive. A good number of these patients with mild intellectual impairment that affects memory may develop dementia within three years. Currently, dementia experts could not predict which patients will develop dementia.

Diagnosis

The physician usually makes a diagnosis by history and physical examination. Sometimes, the causes may be identified, which are potentially reversible such as drugs, delirium or depression. Treating these may improve mental function and quality of life.

The more serious and irreversible causes of dementia are difficult to establish clinically and may only be ascertained during postmortem pathologic examination (autopsy), which is not usually done. Alzheimer's disease, the most common type, accounts for about 65 percent of cases of established dementia. Vascular dementia is probably the next most common type. The causes are mixed in many instances i.e. Alzheimer's disease plus vascular dementia wherein the blood vessels are affected.

Natural history

The natural history may vary from one patient to another but usually, the intellectual and mental functions decline progressively in a period of two to 10 years. Depending on the severity of symptoms, dementia can be divided into mild (early), moderate, and severe (late). Patients may manifest personality and behavior changes during any stage. Depression is fairly common in dementia, usually when dementia is mild or moderate, and may cause vegetative symptoms such as withdrawal, anorexia, weight loss and insomnia. The presence of depression in an elderly patient should always make one suspect dementia.

Because dementia patients generally lose their zest for life, their appetite declines and they lose weight. Metabolic control centers in the brain may also be affected. Loss of weight may be a prominent manifestation before other symptoms appear. Stroke-like muscle weaknesses and other neurologic deficits may occur at different stages. They may occur early in vascular dementia and late in Alzheimer's disease. Seizures or convulsions may also occur particularly in late stages. Some may have hallucinations, delusions, or paranoia and may be treated as psychotic patients, when in fact, they have dementia.

Asian experts on dementia will have a big congress on Oct. 19-21 at the Renaissance Hotel, hosted by the Dementia Society of the Philippines. Interested physicians and dementia caregivers may call the secretariat at 749-9707 or 0919-8442558.

Silent genes, loud Nobel

(First of two parts)

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

IT IS CONSIDERED ONE OF THE MOST IMportant fields of scientific research, based on a discovery made fairly recently, and one about which the public was largely unaware. Though the media often reports on developments in stem cell research, or covered topics such as cancer, or AIDS, fewer news articles are focused on RNA interference. But all that changed this week when the Nobel prize in medicine went to Andrew Fire of Stanford University School of Medicine and Craig Mello of the University of Massachusetts Medical School for their work in, as the Nobel foundation put it, "RNA interference—gene silencing by double-stranded RNA."

Some researchers trace the field of gene silencing's beginnings back to a paper by Britten and Davidson in a 1969 issue of the journal Science, where the writers suggest that ribonucleic acid or RNA plays a role in determining which genes are activated during the early stages of development. Still, everyone agrees that the real precursor to Fire and Mello's work appeared in the 1990 issue of the journal The Plant Cell, where two groups working independently of each other presented some curious and confusing findings.

Napoli et al. and van der Krol et al. were working with petunias, trying to produce a particularly dark shade of purple flowers by overexpressing a particular gene involved in flower color. The idea was that if activating the gene produced purple flowers, then making the gene work overtime would only make the purple color more pronounced. This sounded good in theory, except that the plan backfired, and the researchers found themselves with petunias that had white flowers.

RNA interference

The explanation for this event was termed cosuppression, because, the researchers learned, their work had actually repressed both the transgenic and the petunia's own (wild-type) color genes, so that less color was produced instead of more, resulting in the white flowers. Still, the mechanism behind this phenomenon of gene silencing remained a mystery until Fire and Mello's paper regarding the role of double stranded RNA (dsRNA) in gene silencing appeared in the journal Nature in 1998. The pathway they described, now referred to as RNA interference or simply RNAi, is perhaps the one best understood today and one that next week's column will discuss in greater detail.

Once it was discovered that RNAi could target practically any gene and turn it off, Fire and Mello's work became the cornerstone for several fields of research. In the biomedical field, researchers are looking at RNAi as a way of significantly reducing unwanted gene expression, which would mean tumor growth could be retarded for example, and viruses might not proliferate as rapidly as they do now. Likewise, drug companies are looking at RNAi as a way to target specific disease-related genes and treat illnesses more efficiently.

Interviews

Up on the Nobel Foundation's website (www.nobelprize.org) are audio files and transcripts of the interviews conducted with both Professors Fire and Mello after the announcement was made. Did they know how important their research would become? the Nobelprize.com interviewer asked each scientist. Not until they learned that homologues of the gene they'd cloned for that Nature paper were in practically every organism, Professor Mello answered. "That to me was exciting…. I think this is just the beginning. I'm very excited now in thinking in terms of the role of this type of silencing in evolutionary change, rather than simply as something involved in regulating gene expression."

Professor Fire was a bit more down to earth. "I don't think this is an expected thing for anybody anytime," he said. "You know, it's obviously a great honor… In terms of expecting anything we've already gotten tremendous amounts of credit out of it, so neither Craig nor I feel that we deserve anything more."

* * *

E-mail the writer at massie@massie.com.

Sr. Iluminada C. Coronel: tireless math educator

By Queena N. Lee-Chua

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

IN JANUARY THIS YEAR, MY GRADE One son Scott was in Stella Maris representing his school in the biggest math fest in the Philippines, sponsored by the Mathematics Teachers Association of the Philippines, Metrobank Foundation and the Department of Education. Sr. Iluminada Coronel, f.m.m., strode briskly into the classroom and reviewed proper procedures with the proctor. This she did with her usual speed and efficiency, which as her student, I was well-acquainted with, but my 7-year-old son was in awe.

"Mom," he whispered, pointing at Sr. Coronel's veil, "she is really a sister! I thought sisters taught religion only, but Sr. Coronel teaches math, too! Cool!" Then Scott ran over to her, and Sr. Coronel promptly gave him a hug.

No ordinary teacher

Cool, indeed. Yes, Sr. Coronel is no ordinary teacher. As MTAP president since 1977, she initiated many projects, foremost among them the annual national math competition for elementary and high school. Under her guidance, MTAP also regularly conducts a program for excellence in public schools in the NCR, and a Saturday program for talented students (with another version for regular students) for schools around the country. These efforts have grown, and now there are nearly 150 centers conducting the Saturday programs, with MTAP providing the facilitators and the learning materials.

Born on April 26, 1931 in Floridablanca, Pampanga, Sr. Coronel graduated magna cum laude from the University of Sto. Tomas with a Bachelor of Science in Education, Major in Mathematics degree in 1952. She received her Master's degree in Math from the Ateneo in 1974 and taught there for decades until her retirement a few years ago. In fact, my son's initial assumption was not wholly wrong. For aside from college and graduate math, through the years Sr. Coronel also has taught high school English, science, religious knowledge, biology and even physical education—not only in the Philippines, but also in Hong Kong and Macau.

Sr. Coronel was my college professor in linear algebra. She not only mastered the subject matter, but also did not rest until everyone understood the concepts. She was patient and did not think twice about repeating an explanation for the benefit of slower learners.

Motherly mien

But what I remember most is her motherly mien. One time, a classmate submitted a solution sheet full of erasures (done so roughly that the paper was torn in some places), with answers scribbled in light pencil. After lamenting that pencil was certainly not the implement of choice for college sophomores, Sr. Coronel then lectured us on how clarity of work was also as important as the right answers.

She described her experience in teaching Chinese students, who solved math problems using brush and ink, and wrote their solutions in beautiful calligraphy. She did not expect us to accomplish the same feat, she reminded us wryly, but surely, if something is worth doing, it is worth doing well. Of course, she was right.

Various positions held

Sr. Coronel was the coordinator for the Ateneo-FAPE Graduate Center for Math from 1974 to 1988, and the academic supervisor of graduate students until 1991. She chaired a committee to improve math education in the NCR from 1977 to 1988, and coordinated the First Southeast Asian Conference on Math Education in 1978.

A board member of the Math Society of the Philippines from 1982 to 1984 and of the Philippine Science and Math Council from 1982 to 1992, she has also been a member of the Foundation for Upgrading Science Education since 1998. She cofounded the journal Matimyas Matematika in 1977, and served as managing editor until 1987. Sr. Coronel edited several textbook series: "Living with Math," "Living with Science," "Introduction to Algebra," "Math: An Integrated Approach" and "Algebra and Geometry Based on the 2002 BEC."

Lifetime achievement award

Last July, the Manila Association of Secondary School Math Head Teachers, composed of 30 schools, bestowed upon Sr. Coronel a lifetime achievement award, and even created the "Iluminada Awards" to honor their own outstanding teachers. In October it will be the turn of the Philippine Council of Math Teacher Educators (Mathted) to honor Sr. Coronel.

Sr. Coronel has the energy of people half her age, and when I jokingly queried when she would retire, she remarked seriously, "There are still so many things to be done." To this day she continues conducting seminar-workshops for teachers, publishing the MTAP Bulletin, and organizing conventions and conferences. Sr. Coronel will not rest until every Filipino child has access to good math training, and in this regard, I agree with my son, "This is one cool sister." Well-done, Sr. Coronel, and may the Lord continue to bless your mission.

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NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
DREAM STAIRWAY STORE 40 Malingap Street, Teacher's Village Quezon City	Myung Suk Yoon	Operation Manager
ULTIMATE HAPPY-DREAM PHILS. CORP. 1289 Zobel Roxas Ave., South Super Hi-way, Brgy. 758 Zone 082, Sta. Ana Manila	Bong Choon Lim (w/o Kim)	Assistant General Manager
KOTEN ENTERPRISES CO., INC. 218 Lucban St., Pasay City	Chin-Huang Ting (a.k.a. Alex Ting)	Vice-President for Marketing
MGC LA SEMA CORPORATION Makati Golf Club, 7232 Malugay St. Bel-Air II, Makati City	Jae Young Ahn	President
TOPLUX MARKETING, INC. 284 Dasmariñas St. Binondo, Manila	Jae Won Kim	Regional Marketing Manager
GENT HOMO AGGREGATES CORP. Rm. 201-284 Dasmariñas St. Binondo, Manila	Jung Ja Kim (w/o Seo)	Regional Sales Manager
CHINA AIRLINES, LTD. G/F, Golden Empire Tower Roxas Blvd. cor. Padre Faura St. Ermita, Manila	Shin-Jau Chu (a.k.a. Chuckey Chu)	Cargo Service Manager
MOTO KING IMPORTER, INC. Republic Steel Compound Km. 16, Pamplona, Las Piñas City	Syue-Hong Cheng	Technical Manager
HOLCIM PHILIPPINES, INC. L3 PHINMA Plaza, 39 Plaza Drive Rockwell Center, Makati City	Jan Stuart Thackwray	Deputy Chief Operating Officer

If you have any information/objection to the abovementioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

(PDI–Oct. 7, 2006)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
(Head Office)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS (BSP), thru its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites prospective Consultants to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid for the Architectural and Engineering (A&E) Consultancy Services for the proposed Audit Investigation of the Various Buildings and Utilities at the BSP Main Complex.

The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) for this consultancy services is P12.0 Million.

The scope of the work includes among others the Investigation, Testing and Audit including preparation of the Architectural and Engineering as-built plans for the five (5) buildings (5-storey, Multi-storey, Celetonum, EDPC, Metropolitan Museum and Site Development Plan) of the BSP Main Complex.

The list of minimum eligibility requirements is indicated in the Eligibility Form. Eligibility of prospective consultancy firm shall be checked using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Interested consultancy firm must meet the following criteria:

1.0 The firm must have rendered within the last ten (10) years (reckoned from the date of the first advertisement/posting of this Invitation) lawful practice of the type of consulting services called for in this Invitation.

2.0 The firm must have rendered within the last ten (10) years (reckoned from the date of the first advertisement/posting of this Invitation) A and E Consultancy Services for at least three (3) Investigation, Testing and Audit projects including preparation of the Architectural & Engineering as-built plans of office buildings, banks, exchanges and financial institutions of similar or greater magnitude as the proposed BSP project and must be able to submit a certification of satisfactory performance from the client for at least (2) of the required three (3) projects.

3.0 The Principal or Managing Officer must be a Registered Engineer or Architect with at least fifteen (15) years experience in architectural and engineering design and in coordinating team efforts in A & E Consultancy Services.

4.0 The key personnel should be Registered Architect/s, Civil Engineer/s, Professional Mechanical Engineer/s and Processional Electrical Engineer/s with at least ten (10) years design experience.

5.0 The firm (partnership/corporation/joint venture) must be 60% owned by a Filipino citizen. Foreign consultants must be registered with SEC and/or any agency authorized by the laws of the Philippines.

6.0 In case of a joint venture, a valid joint venture agreement shall be required. The joint venture must have rendered A & E Consultancy Services for at least two completed projects of similar magnitude as the proposed BSP project.

7.0 For those firms with previous Consultancy Services with the BSP/PICC, a certificate of satisfactory performance issued by the Bank must be submitted.

Eligibility documents may be obtained from the BAC Secretariat on 9 October – 20 October 2006 upon submission of a letter of intent and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00, Room 212, 2nd Floor, Five-Storey Building at the BSP Main Complex, A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo Streets, Malate, Manila and must be submitted duly accomplished to the same office not later than 2:00 P.M. on 24 October 2006.

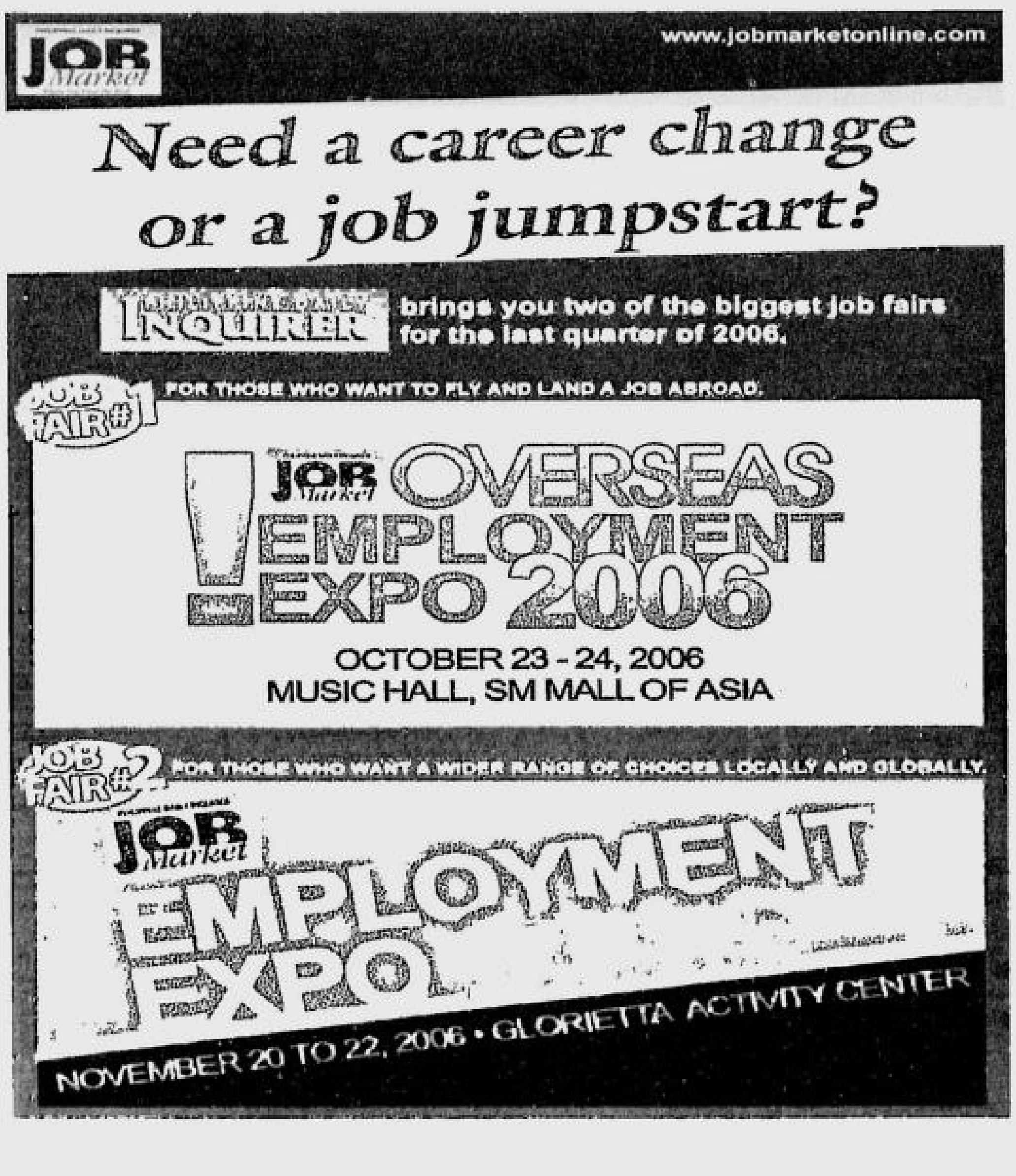
The provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations relative to the bidding and award of contract shall apply.

BSP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and make no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation. Furthermore, BSP is not obliged to compensate / indemnify the consultant for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bid nor does it guarantee that an award of contract will be made

(Sgd.) MELPIN A. GONZAGA
Vice-Chairman

(PDI – October 7, 2006)

POEA 24-HR HOTLINES 722-1144 722-1155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Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 920-6401 • (632) 920-6446
E-mail: sssemail@info.com.ph • Web site http://www.sss.gov.ph

NOTICE

Please get in touch with the Members Assistance Center, Social Security System (SSS), East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City or at any SSS office nearest your place of residence and file your death benefit claim within 90 days upon publications, if you are:

NAME OF BENEFICIARIES	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	NAME OF SSS MEMBER	DATE OF DEMISE
1) Ernesto Almaden	Unknown	Evelinda Almaden SS#03-7500087-4	September 11, 2006
2) Lucita Bojangin Aquino	62 E. Rodriguez Hi-way, Sto. Nino, Marikina, Rizal	Celestino Aquino SS#03-3351135-0	August 10, 2006
3) Epple C. Bacal	Pag-asa, Lagao, General Santos City	Rico G. Bacal SS#08-0371971-8	April 9, 2006
4) Charlotte Alejo Bacoy	#12 15th Ave, Murphy, Q.C.	Ricardo Bacoy SS#03-5313285-8	June 2, 2006
5) Lala Bato	Lanao del Sur	Mangacop M. Bato SS#08-0725533-3	March 16, 2004
6) Maylinda Cruz	029 Mla. Times Village, Pamplona, Las Pinas, Mla.	Crispin Cruz SS#03-3958070-9	June 4, 2006
7) Angelita Deocadiz	La Carlota City	Patricio Deocadez SS#07-0325699-9	April 16, 2006
8) Buena Penpillo	Malandeg, Sarangani Province	Richard P. Gregorio SS#09-2267276-5	November 1, 2003
9) Glady's Guino-o	Lansones Extension, Manggahan, Pasig City	Reynaldo Guino-o SS#07-0857492-2	December 11, 2004
10) Merasal Hing-on Penky Hing-on	Victory Lantapan, Bukidnon	Primo Sulatan Hing-on SS#08-1327628-3	September 6, 2005
11) Susana O. Jimligo	1091 Lopez Jaena St., Butuan City	Lucio R. Jimligo SS#08-0246244-8	July 23, 2006
12) Hilda Bermudo Jovencio Malicdem Joey & Jojo	Unknown	Jose Malicdem SS#03-5220166-7	July 15, 2005
13) Rustica C. Marmito	Unknown	Jaime Mangindin Marmito SS#02-0106733-4	May 28, 2006
14) Vicente Pacistol Salvacion BobilesLuz PacistolFernando PacistolJose Pacistol Jaime Pacistol	Sta. Lucia, Puerto Princesa, Palawan	Magin B. Pacistol SS#03-1731407-8	June 27, 2002
15) Joy U. Peraan	1512 Espana, Sampaloc, Manila	Wilson Peraan SS#03-2764458-9	July 6, 2006
16) Norberto Reyes	Unknown	Paulina Reyes SS#07-0761985-9	March 10, 2006
17) Brenda S. Rufino	#25 Pulumbarit St., Taytay, Rizal	Recuerdo David R. Rufino SS#03-4709402-5	May 4, 2005

- Nothing follows -

(PDI - Oct. 7, 2006)

A leading law firm in Quezon City needs

ASSOCIATE LAWYERS

- must have passed the Bar Exams in 2000 to 2002
- must have at least two (2) years experience in litigation
- graduates of U.P., Ateneo and San Beda preferred
- must be willing to do trial and corporate work
- resident of Quezon City preferred
- for prospective partnership

Please send comprehensive resumé with ID picture at:

Rm. 2K Edificio Enriqueta
422 N.S. Amoranto St. corner D. Tuason Ave.
Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City, Metro Manila
or email us at **abogado_arcinas@yahoo.com**

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Building 6, San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, 1003 Manila
Trunk Line 743-83-01 Loc. 1625-1628, 1650-1652; Fax: 741-9775; 743-8301 Loc. 1651

03 October 2006

Request for Expressions of Interest

The Republic of the Philippines through Department of Health (DOH) under the Health Sector Development Project has applied for a Loan with the Asian Development Bank and intends to apply part of the proceeds to payments under the following contract.

Position	Qualifications
Medical Equipment Specialist IFB-CS-FAPS-2006-18	• Graduate of engineering course particularly in the field of Electrical, Electronics and Communication and Mechanical Engineering with general knowledge on basic hospital equipment operations • With at least 5 years experience in Hospital Equipment Management which includes specification setting, procurement, maintenance, system setting and training and must be able to prepare/design training programs, monitoring tools and evaluate projects and programs. • Familiar with Philippine Procurement Law and ADB Procurement Procedures.

The DOH now invites qualified individuals to express interest in providing the above-services. Expressions of interest and curriculum vitae shall be sent to the address below by no later than 16 October 2006.

ALEXANDER A. PADILLA
Undersecretary of Health
Chairperson, Central Office Bids and Awards Committee
Department of Health
Building 6, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila 1003
Tel. # 7438301 Loc. 1650 – 1652 • Telefax No. 743-8301 Loc. 1651

The individual will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the *Guidelines on the Use of Consultants by Asian Development Bank and its Borrowers* dated April 2006.

The DOH reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and/or reject all bids at any time prior to award of contract without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground to the DOH

(Sgd.) ALEXANDER A. PADILLA
Undersecretary of Health
Chairperson, COBAC

(PDI – October 7, 2006)

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ERRATUM

In the *Notice of Filing of Application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s (AEP/S)* of **DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (DOLE)** published on September 15 and 16, 2006 in this paper, the following were inadvertently printed:

The address that appeared on Sept. 15-issue: Carrier Intl. Corp., 39/F Union Bank Plaza, Meralco cor., Onyx Sts., Ortigas Ctr., *Pasay City* should be **Pasig City.**

The name that appeared on Sept. 16-issue: Andrie Tan should be **Adrie Tan.**

Our apologies.

PRIME REAL ESTATES FOR SALE

Tagaytay City:
1 1,000 sqm lot along Aguinaldo Hi-way Mendez
2 1,750 sqm lot along Ligaya Drive, Bo. Sungay with 300 deg view overlooking Lake Taal and hills behind

Manila:
1 1,500 sqm corner lot, Oriquieta/ Mayhaligue
2 129 sqm corner lot Oroquieta Batangas

Pasig:
1 1,000 sqm commercial lot along Evangelista St
2 2-Storey residential house with 5 BR 4TB with 4 car garage located at Executive Row, Camito St., Valle Verde I

Caloocan:
1 Warehouse with 2-storey office building on 525 sqm lot located at Baysa St

CONTACT NOS.: 09157184842 GLOBE • 09192909396 SMART

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Registered Med Tech
R-Healthcare Clinic
Room 203 JL Bldg.,
Kapasigan, Pasig City
Tel. No. 641-9308;
0927-8310853
Look for Ivy or Richard

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– Greenhills # 107 Connecticut Comml / Rsdl 1001 LA w/ house
– Greenmeadows H&L 875LA 'Open for swap + cash'
– ShangGrand Tower 2BR furnished ' Immediate sale / nego'
– Boni Ave., Mandaluyong 'Comml lot 785 sq.m. corner' OK JV w/inc near Edsa
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TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply, Delivery and Installation of Desktop Computers and Proxy Servers,
and
Proposal for Internet-Base Software for English Language Training Program

The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority intends to apply the sum of *Php 75,000,000.00* being the total Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) for the **Supply, Delivery and Installation of Desktop Computers and Proxy Servers** and *Php 5,000,000.00* for the **Proposal for the Internet-Based Software for English Language Training Program.** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

TESDA now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Supply, Delivery and Installation of Desktop Computers and Proxy Servers and proposal for the Internet-Based Software for English Language Training Program. Delivery of the GOODS is required within thirty (30) calendar days from the date of contract signing. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through limited bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations, Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act No. 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only bids from bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, **ITB**. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his/her responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION, 3rd Floor, TESDA Administration Building, TESDA Complex, East Service Road, South Luzon Expressway, Taguig City from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by the interested bidders from the above address and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of **Two Thousand Pesos only (Php 2,000.00)** for the hardware and **One Thousand Pesos only (Php 1,000.00)** for the software. The method of payment will be in the form of CASH. The bidding documents shall be received personally by the prospective bidder or his/her authorized representative.

TESDA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on October 12, 2006, 2:00 p.m. at Aquino Room, Learning Center, TESDA Administration Building.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before October 27, 2006. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the following form and amount:

- Cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit equivalent to 1% of ABC; **or**
- Bank Guarantee equivalent to 1½% of ABC; **or**
- Surety Bond equivalent to 2.5% of ABC; **or**
- Foreign government guarantee equivalent to 100% of ABC

Late bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be held on October 27, 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the Aquino Room, Learning Center, TESDA Administration Building. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

TESDA reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders

TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
MR. SANTIAGO M. YABUT, JR.
(Deputy Director General, FO)
Chairman, BAC
TESDA Administration Building
East Service Road, South Superhighway
Taguig City

Tel. No. 817-40-76 to 80 local nos. 314 & 315 & 893-8296
Fax No. 817-90-40
E-mail : psd_ocsa@tesda.gov.ph
Website : www.tesda.gov.ph

SEC. AUGUSTO BOBOY SYJUCO
Director General

(PDI-October 7 & 14, 2006)

PASEGURUHAN NG MGA NAGLILINGKOD SA PAMAHALAAN
(GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM)
Financial Center, Pasay City, Metro Manila 1308

PHYSICAL RESOURCES DISPOSAL COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID

The GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM invites all interested parties to submit sealed proposals for the sale of motor vehicles, unserviceable/obsolete computers and printers, office equipment, furniture and used records located at the GSIS Pasay City and Makati City building on "AS IS , WHERE IS" basis to be conducted on October 16, 2006 at 2:00 P.M. at the Physical Resources Lounge, Level I, Core B, New GSIS Headquarters Bldg., Pasay City.

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	MIN. BID
A. One(1)	Nissan Urvan, mdl. 2000, plate no. WKB-541	GSIS, Pasay City	420,000.00
B. One(1)	Toyota Crown, mdl. 1993 , plate no. SEG-610	-do-	144,000.00
C. One (1) Lot	59 Obsolete/Unserviceable Cellular phones	-do-	36,072.00
D. One (1) Lot	Unserviceable/Obsolete computer equipment (CPUs, Monitors, printers, keyboards) Estimated at 7,830 kilos, more or less	-do-	245,079.00 or 31.30/ kilo
E. One (1) Lot	Consisting of the following unserviceable/ Obsolete office equipment and waste materials such as typewriters, fax machines refrigerators, lateral/ storage/ vault/ index, cabinets, calculators , copying machines, fingerscans, diskette box, tel. apparatus, table lamps, airpots , calculators, attache cases, batteries, elect. fans, cash boxes, staplers, perforators, AVR, ups, scanners	-do-	81,740.00
F. One(1) Lot	200 Office Tables (CWS) 31 Open Credenza	-do-	23,100.00
G. One(1) Lot	Used records and used checks 10,000 kilos, more or less	GSIS Pasay City and Makati Building	127,800.00 or 12.78 kilo

The above Obsolete/unserviceable equipment and used records may be inspected at the New GSIS Headquarters, Financial Center, Pasay City and used checks at GSIS Makati Building during office hours. For official Bid Forms and further inquiries, please refer to the Materials Management Department, GSIS, Financial Center, Pasay City at Tel No. 891-62-95.

Sealed Bids shall be accompanied by a refundable cash bid securities equivalent to 10% of the total amount of bid. Manager's, cashier's or certified checks shall be accepted as cash.

The GSIS/PRDC reserves the right to reject any or all offers, to waive any defect/s or informality of the offers received, to accept the offer most advantageous to the System; and does not guarantee that an award will be made. The decision of the GSIS/PRDC in this regard shall be final and binding.

(Sgd.) **ARNALDO C. CUASAY**
Sr. Vice President, Administration and
Chairperson, PRDC

(PDI–Oct. 7 & 8, 2006)

EFREN PAYURAN TINITIGAN

January 29, 1949 – September 29, 2006

His bereaved family: wife **Rosalina**; children **Michelle**, **Rochelle**, **Melissa**, **Rosemarie** and **Romina**; parents **Severino** and **Teofista**; brothers and sisters **Elsa**, **Alice**, **Junie**, **Ganie**, **Danilo**, **Rowena** and **Cynthia**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz Sucat.

There will be a funeral mass on Sunday October 8, 2006 at 11:00 a.m. in La Funeraria Paz Sucat followed by interment at Binakayan Municipal Cemetery in Kawit, Cavite.

Lolita "Imang Liling" P. Esquivel

of Sta. Ana, San Fernando, Pampanga; Jaen, N.E. and Houston, Texas

September 7, 1916 – October 6, 2006

Peacefully joined our Lord and her parents
Narciso S. Pineda** and **Leonarda K. Umali
at the age of 90.

Her husband **Marcos** (†); children **Belen** and **Mando**, **Roger** and **Lita**, **Hermie** and **Lita**, **Narcing** and **Merle**, **Tom** and **Espie**, **Chuchi**, **Jerry** and **Vicky**, **Vicky** and **Jesus**, **Ben** and **Mely**, **Etang** and **Nonie**; grandchildren and great grandchildren request relatives and friends to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state in Houston, Texas where she will be buried after the Holy Mass.

"Blessed are the Meek and the Mild for they shall inherit Paradise."

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."

2 Corinthians 5:8

Heavenly Father,
Guide us to live our lives like a Child,
To see the Miracle in every Moment,
To find Grace in every Day,
And Hope in every Night,
And the Wisdom of living life to the full

DONNA MARIE G. MOLINA

January 26, 1982 – October 5, 2006

Returned peacefully into the arms of her Almighty Father
This 5th day of October 2006

She is survived by her family and friends...

Her remains lie in state at
The Mortuary and Crematory
The Heritage Park – Fort Bonifacio

Mass will be held daily at 8PM
Inurnment will be on October 8, 2006 at 3PM
Following the 11AM Funeral Mass and Cremation

Mortuary and Crematory at Heritage Park

Our Dearly Beloved

Remedios Chua Dee

Peacefully joined our Lord
on October 5, 2006 at the age of 61.

Her loving husband **Eduardo Deebunkhe**; children **Macy** & **Philip**, **Mike** & **Des**, **Grace**, **Edward**, **Bryan**; grandchildren, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Chapel-A, La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Holy Mass will be celebrated on
Tuesday, October 10, 2006 at 9:00 a.m.
Cremation follows at
11:30 a.m. Paz Crematory.

We design **OBITUARIES** for free.

Our Dearly Beloved

ERNESTO EBUEN CHIONG

(February 13, 1924 - October 4, 2006)

Peacefully joined our Lord
on October 4, 2006 at the age of 82.

His loving wife **Charmie**; children **Charles** & **Vivian**, **Gisela** & **Steve**, **Erwin** & **Mel**, **Donald** & **Cecile** and **Geram** & **Donna**; grandchildren **Jansen** & **Aika**, **Nina** & **James**, **Miles** & **Mariel**, **Chloe** & **Chelo**, **Gerry** & **Gwen** and all relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue cor. Kaliraya St., Quezon City.

Interment will be on October 10, 2006 at La Loma Cemetery.

CLASSIFIEDS

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION
SOUTH LUZON OPERATION & MAINTENANCE
Tel. No. : (02) 5206776, (02) 9814595-9814539-9814576-9814577-9814578 LOC. 4002; (049) 4114500 LOC. 4002

Trans Co

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
AD NO. TRANSCO 2006-10A

• The *NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION, South Luzon Operation and Maintenance* (TRANSCO-SLOM) through the *2006 Corporate Budget approved by the TransCo Board* intends to apply the sum as indicated below being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the following Purchase Requisitions (PR). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening

BID SCHEDULE	PR NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	QTY.	APPROVED BUDGET	PRE-BID CONFERENCE
DATE OF BIDDING : OCTOBER 27, 2006 9:00 AM					
H1	CNB-06-22085	Replacement of Two (2) 69 KV OCB at Labo S/S	1 lot	Php 7,540,000.00	Oct. 13 / 1:30 PM
H2	3LAG-06-27225	Combined Protection Relay, Supervision and Control System	2 units	Php 2,000,000.00	Oct. 13 / 1:30 PM
H3	3LAG-06-18871	Insulators, Porcelain, for 230KV T/L	1100 pcs	Php 3,300,000.00	Oct. 13 / 1:30 PM
H4	PSMD-N-06-17563	Supply, Delivery, Installation of Container Van Control Room and Office Building, Positioning and Installation of Control and Protection Panels with complete Substation works. Container Van Office and Control Room	1 lot	Php 3,870,941.22	Oct. 13 / 1:30 PM
H5	QUE-06-26682	Insulators, Porcelain for 230KV T/L application	10500 pcs.	Php 18,900,000.00	Oct. 13 / 1:30 PM
H6	D1-06-17221 (PB2)	Power Circuit Breaker 69KV, SF6 Gas	3 pcs	Php 11,700,000.00	Oct. 13 / 1:30 PM

2 The *TRANSCO-SLOM* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the aforementioned Bid Schedules. Delivery schedule of the GOODS shall be in accordance with the bid documents. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

3 Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure

4 Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Materials Management Services, TransCo-SLOM and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 12. NN and 1:00 to 5:00 P.M from Monday to Friday.

5 A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from October 9, 2006 to October 26, 2006 at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of *Php500.00 minimum, or 0.01% of the ABC whichever is higher per bidding schedule.* The method of payment will be *Cash.* The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

6. TransCo-SLOM will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on the date and time stated above at the OAVP Conference Room.

7 Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on the date and time stated above. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the forms indicated in Section III Bid Data Sheet of the bid documents, in Philippine Pesos or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

8. Bid opening shall be on the date and time stated above at the OAVP Conference Room. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

9. The *National Transmission Corporation-South Luzon Operations and Maintenance* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

National Transmission Corporation, South Luzon Operation & Maintenance

Engr. Ruben G. Castuera, BAC Chairman
San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna
Telefax No. (632)520-6776
Website : www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) R. G. CASTUERA
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI--Oct. 7, 2006)

La Funeraria Paz, Inc.

PAZ

The Nations Largest Since 1900

TO ALL OUR VALUED PATRONS:

WE REGRET TO INFORM YOU THAT ***LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC. (PAZ), HAS CEASED TO OPERATE ITS SERVICING FACILITY LOCATED AT ITS LEASED PREMISES IN 1501 CLARO M. RECTO, COR. T. MAPUA ST., STA. CRUZ, MANILA, AFTER MIDNIGHT OF OCTOBER 01, 2006.***

ANY MEMORIAL SERVICE TRANSACTION ON THE SAID PREMISES BEYOND THE STATED DATE, WHICH MAY BE ENTERED BY ITS CURRENT OR FORMER COMPANY PERSONNEL SHALL NOT BE THE LIABILITY OF LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.

WE SHALL, HOWEVER, CONTINUE TO PROVIDE OUR FUNERAL AND OTHER MEMORIAL SERVICES AT ITS MAIN OFFICE IN 143 G. ARANETA AVE. COR. KALIRAYA ST., BGY. TATALON, STA. MESA HEIGHTS, QUEZON CITY. TEL. NOS. 712-3001/743-6502/743-6505/743-6508/732-4795 TRUNK NOS. 749-3806 TO 11.

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MELCHOR G. OCAMPO
President

(PDI - Oct. 7 & 11. 2006)

Aids forum in Davao set Oct. 6-7

THE PHILIPPINE Society for Microbiology and Infectious Diseases Southern Mindanao Chapter in cooperation with AIDS Society of the Philippines will conduct the 8th Philippine National Convention on AIDS, the first-ever national forum on AIDS on October 6-7 at the Royal Mandaya Hotel, Davao City.

With its theme "Scaling Up Responses on HIV/AIDS", the forum will feature experts on this field to keep participants from the different sectors of society abreast with the prevention and treatment modalities as a step ahead in beating this dreaded killer disease.

Call center industry holds idol search

HUMAN RESOURCES professionals from a number of leading call centers in the country have been gathering together for over a year now. This year, they are coming together to raise funds for their association through a much awaited concert. What better way to hold a concert than to feature its very own employees. It was therefore a unanimous decision to be patterned after the popular reality TV talent search American Idol.

The "Search for the HRCC Idol Contest" will be held on Saturday, Oct. 14, 2006 at 7pm in Philamlife Auditorium located at United Nations Ave, Manila.

Each member company conducted its own internal search and chose one official representative to sing a number of songs at the said event.

Cash Prize and consolation prizes await the lucky winners. Tickets are being sold at a reasonable price of P50 each and are available at the gate.

For more details, please call Thinking Cap, Inc. at 8149568 or 0920-9135596 (look for Joyce Peñalosa).

This event is supported by Philamlife Foundation, PDI-Job Market, World Pacific, Mirof, Nexus, Human Capital Asia, and VJ Graphics.

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BEST BOOTH, CORPORATE CATEGORY
Boracay Tropics, the newest Triple A Resort Hotel in Boracay, recently won the Best Booth in the corporate category at the Philippine Travel Mart in SM Megamall. Andy Galutera, the resort's design consultant, ably transported the resort's warm tropical feel, recreating one of the lush Asian Mediterranean architecture connected by an artful bridge over the resort's inviting bean shaped pool as captured by seasoned photographer Walter Villa. Boracay Tropics sales and marketing group headed by sales director Onelle Pacheco and marketing consultant Annie Convocar met with clients and guests at the booth's garden setting.

Model units opening

ROBINSONS LAND CORP. OFFICIALLY OPENED WOODSVILLE VIVERDE Mansions model units at Level 1, Robinsons Galleria Mall (beside Ortigas mall entrance).

Primarily designed to be the family's first condominium, Woodsville, a gated modern condo development has everything a young family needs—65 percent open space and greenery, indoor and outdoor playgrounds, adult and children swimming pools, a village mall and only 10 minutes away to Ayala, Makati.

Units are priced for as low as P1 million and are available in studio, two- and three-bedroom models. For more information call 636-0888, 0922-838-0888 or visit www.robinsonsproperties.com.ph.

Erratum

IN THE ARTICLE "IT'S ALL ABOUT FITNESS AT AYALA WESTgrove Heights," published Sept. 23, the names of the sports celebrities who graced the event are tennis guru Jackie Castillejo and badminton whiz kids and national champions Kenny and Kennivic Asuncion.

Also, the sports facilities that are part of the plans for the Sportscenter include an indoor basketball court, lapping pool, Wellness Center and putting green.

(The preceding information was not included in the original press release provided by Ayala Land Premier.—Ed.)

First 'giant' step to computerized land records completed

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES Secretary Angelo T. Reyes has moved a step closer to his goal of restoring the integrity of land titles through the computerization of land records, with the completion of the first phase of the Land Management Bureau's location monuments computerization project.

Successfully completed at no cost whatsoever to the government, the project was undertaken for the LMB by the Chamber of Real Estate and Builder's Associations (Creba) under an innovative cooperative arrangement.

Location monuments whose coordinates are determined, recorded and maintained by the LMB are indispensable to the country's system of land ownership and titling, since these are used as tie points or anchors in establishing the official geographic position of titled lands, among others.

Preserving data

Creba hailed Reyes for continuing with the project initiated by his predecessor, Michael T. Defensor, to preserve the data in the paper-and-ink registries which were already decaying from the ravages of time, mold infestation, and wear and tear from more than a century of use.

Creba said its technical arm Creba Land Systems Specialists Inc. (CLaSS) undertook the digital imaging of all the pages of the registries in order to preserve the original records, then created computerized registries by encoding the data for some 128,000 location monuments nationwide.

Another free service

As another free service to LMB, Creba Land also developed a Reference Point Management System (RPMC) software, complete with an electronic certification, by which LMB could speedily access the digital registry, verify and update the data and issue certifications on geographic locations to the requesting public. Creba said it is also exploring ways to help LMB, again at no cost to the government securely deploy the RPMS over the Internet in order to provide more convenient public access to the date particularly in the regions.

The digital national registry together with the RPMS, housed in an IBM server donated by Creba, was formally turned over to the LBM during the recent Creba monthly membership meeting at the Intercontinental Hotel.

Lauding Creba for its generosity and professionalism, LMB director Erwin L. Tiamson said the project is a giant first step toward attaining Reyes' 12-point action program, which includes improving land administration and effectively serving the public's needs. Tiamson said that pursuant to the secretary's desire to fasttrack computerization of all other vital century-old land records as a prelude to review, synchronization and finally putting them in order, he will continue to explore other cooperative arrangement with Creba toward achieving these at the earliest possible time.

SM property arm to tap Filipino mart in Europe

SM DEVELOPMENT CORP., THE PROPERTY development subsidiary of SM, recently embarked on a trip to London to explore the UK market of Filipino-British and a huge community of expatriates and overseas Filipino workers (OFWs).

SM Development joined the 22nd Barrio Fiesta sa London 2006 together with the Chambers of Real Estate Brokers Associations (Creba) in the United Kingdom. The capital city of London alone is home to 120,000 Filipino-British nationals and overseas workers.

Since SM Development began marketing its residential projects, there has been a clamor in the Filipino community to find out more about its product offerings. Both of SMDC's initial developments, the Mediterranean-designed resort subdivision Chateau Elysee, and high-rise condominium Mezza Residences, have been well received.

"SM is a name Filipinos know and trust. When they see our projects' complete package of location, quality, affordability and exceptional investment potential, plus the solid foundation of the SM name, it becomes an easy and intelligent choice," explains Julie Jalandoni, SMDC assistant vice president for sales and marketing.

A name Filipinos trust

SMDC has launched two very successful residential developments, catering to the middle-income market and both carrying the concept of residential communities anchored on an SM Supermall. Its maiden project, Chateau Elysee, a masterplanned community near SM Bicutan turned over Lafayette and Concorde buildings to owners early this year. Construction work on its third phase, Eiffel, is currently underway and its newest cluster, Ritz, is already open for reservation.

Doing brisk sales is Mezza Residences, a high-rise condominium project, the first of its kind development in the Aurora-Araneta area of Metro Manila. The condominium offers best value for living and investment, with central location and excellent amenities, including a direct bridgeway to SM City Sta. Mesa.

More residential projects

SMDC is also slated to launch more premium residential projects this year such as condominium developments in Baguio, Tagaytay, Quezon City and Muntinlupa City.

With the success of its initial foray into the overseas Filipino market, SM is now planning to do more trips to Europe in the last quarter of 2006.

SM Development designs and creates homes and leisure and tourism projects for the active premium middle market segment.

Medical Center to open in Greenfield City

CREATING A UNIQUE LANDSCAPE FOR business/commercial companies to thrive made Greenfield City in Sta. Rosa, Laguna increasingly viable for new, upcoming and even established institutions.

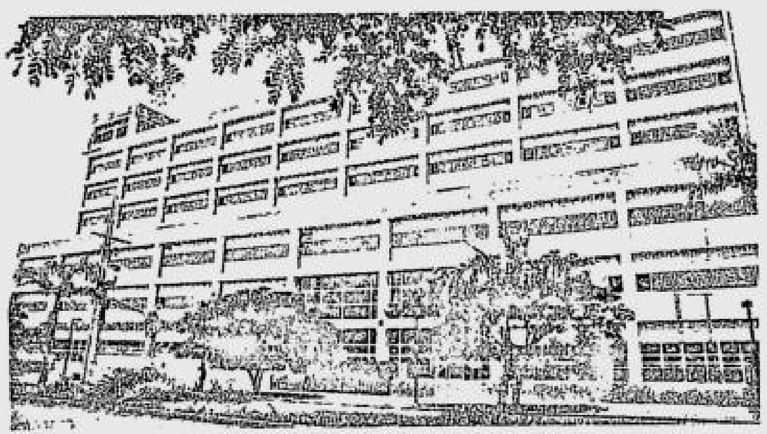
Today, it is set to extend valuable service to residential communities with the soon-to-be-completed Southern Luzon Hospital and Medical Center, a medical facility that aims to bring state-of-the-art technology and medical expertise within the area.

Says Calamba Medical Center president and CEO Dr. Jose O. Juliano: "We realized that there is a need for a hospital, strategically located in a place like Sta. Rosa. I was told that Greenfield City has available land, and I said this is a good place for a hospital because there are companies, residential developments, and Tagaytay is nearby.

First structure

"At first, we were only thinking of a satellite clinic to serve CMC, but as the project matured, it became bigger and is now a seven-story, two-basement, 150-bed tertiary hospital with a total floor area of 4,500 square meters. It is the first structure to be built in Greenfield Business Park of Santa Rosa City and it is big enough to fulfill their community's medical requirements," he said.

According to Juliano, CMC is the main owner of SLHMC and will initially be operating it. He will be the president and CEO of SLHMC. "We will have about 100 carefully screened doctors with diplomates that have procured privileged-to-practice at SLHMC. We are looking at patients from Laguna, Cavite and Batangas as well as companies at the Laguna Technopark and communities in Sta. Rosa," he said.



THE NEW Southern Luzon Hospital and Medical Center

DOCTORS Jose Juliano (seated) and Jun Juliano

Residents in nearby exclusive subdivisions people are just as excited over the opening of Southern Luzon Hospital and Medical Center. According to Juliano, they are anxiously waiting for the completion of the hospital; SLHMC has also offered to provide ambulance service to the community. "Actually, we will also meet with companies in the community that are interested in buying shares in the hospital," he said.

Top-level hospital

Construction of the SLHMC started in August 2004. Juliano disclosed that its first two floors will be opened by September 2006. "This will include the 32 outpatient doctors' clinics, emergency room (ER), X-ray and ultrasound rooms (medical imaging), the laboratory, ancillary services, pharmacy and the lobby. The third floor which houses the operating rooms and the intensive care unit together with the fifth floor's 50 patient rooms will be made available by October," he said.

Since each clinic can accommodate a maximum of five doctors, SLHMC can have about 150 active medical consultants.

Southern Luzon Hospital and Medical Center is considered a tertiary, or top-level, hospital. Dr. J. Enrico "Jun" Juliano, the managing director of Calamba Eye Center, an ophthalmologist at CMC and also the SLHMC's medical director, emphasized.

SLHMC also has a modern dental, dialysis and rehab clinics. It also provides enough space to accommodate the different needs of the doctors. The structural engineers have designed the building to withstand the strongest earthquake in the Philippines. They have guaranteed that it will be the last building that will remain standing after a strong quake.

The younger Juliano described his duties at the new hospital. "As medical director, I will be the hospital manager and the operations of the hospital will be under me. Dr. Ernesto Naval has been appointed chief of clinics of the hospital and he will coordinate with the doctors on the policies of the hospital. The chief of clinics will be under the medical director.

A golf city for different lifestyles

A NEW CITY IS FAST RISING, WITH the promise of a multitude of modern lifestyles. One of these will surely fit you or your family's aspirations.

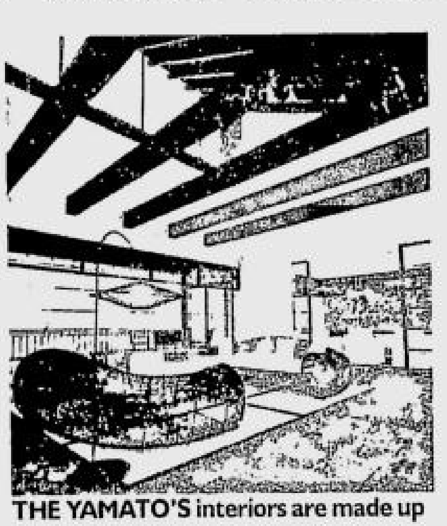
South Forbes Golf City, conveniently located in Metro Sta. Rosa, is the first project in the country ever to host diverse residential enclaves inspired by the best designs the world has to offer. These designs, in turn, are ideal for certain types of people and their families.

Colorful homes

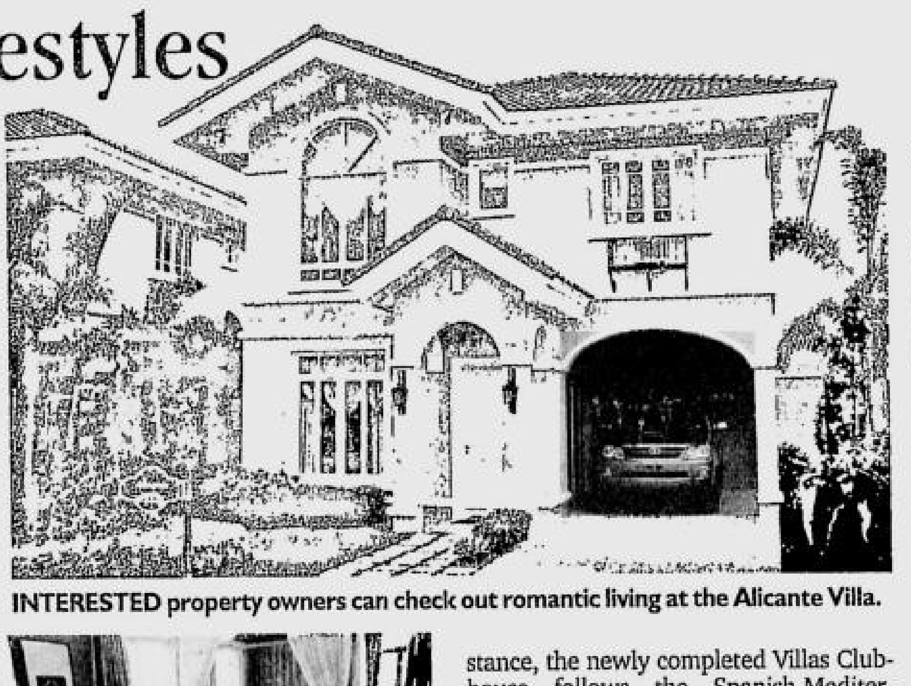
The first enclave, South Forbes Villas, was inspired by the allure of the homes along the Spanish-Mediterranean coast. These colorful homes come with golden or orange exteriors and equally golden interiors designed by Ivy and Cynthia Almario. Naturally, the Villas are best for couples who want to live in a romantic setting as can be seen at the Alicante model villa.

Bali Mansions' resort-inspired interiors done by the Almario sisters have also won raves from interested property buyers. Reminiscent of a spa, the interiors are very soothing, ideal for entrepreneurs and individuals who want to unwind in a laid-back environment after a hard day's work. The Nusa Dua model mansion is the epitome of resort luxury at Bali Mansions.

The next, Tokyo Mansions, is the country's first Modern Zen-themed residential enclave. Straight lines and contrasting dark and white elements make up these mansions. As such, these homes are ideal for the introspective and those who prefer minimalist interiors. The Yamato will be the biggest model mansion at Tokyo Mansions.



THE YAMATO'S interiors are made up of functional and fashionable pieces.



INTERESTED property owners can check out romantic living at the Alicante Villa.

Newest project

The newest project, Châteaux de Paris, boasts modern palaces as homes. Grandiosity is still there but has been modified to fit today's lifestyles. Interested property buyers can check out the Chantilly for a contemporary rendition of French interior design. These homes are best for individuals who want to live it up in a royal and regal fashion.

Meanwhile, Golf View Terraces is ideal for people who desire the comforts and convenience of condo living with a view of a top golf course. This condo will rise facing the magnificent fairways of the all-weather 18-hole South Forbes Golf Club. Both standard and loft units are available for discriminating buyers.

BALI Mansions' resort-inspired interiors

To complete the lifestyle experience for individuals and their families, each South Forbes enclave comes with a clubhouse designed according to the theme of that particular development. For instance, the newly completed Villas Clubhouse follows the Spanish-Mediterranean theme. Bali Mansions buyers can also now enjoy the resort-inspired amenities at the Bali Mansions Clubhouse.

Free golf membership

As a bonus, each South Forbes lot or condominium unit investor gets a free golf membership to the all-weather South Forbes Golf Club. This golf course was designed by no other than the International Management Group (IMG), Asia's leading golf course designer.

The free golf membership also entitles South Forbes member-residents to play and discount privileges in 42 top golf courses worldwide through the exclusive golf club of IMG SportsClub.

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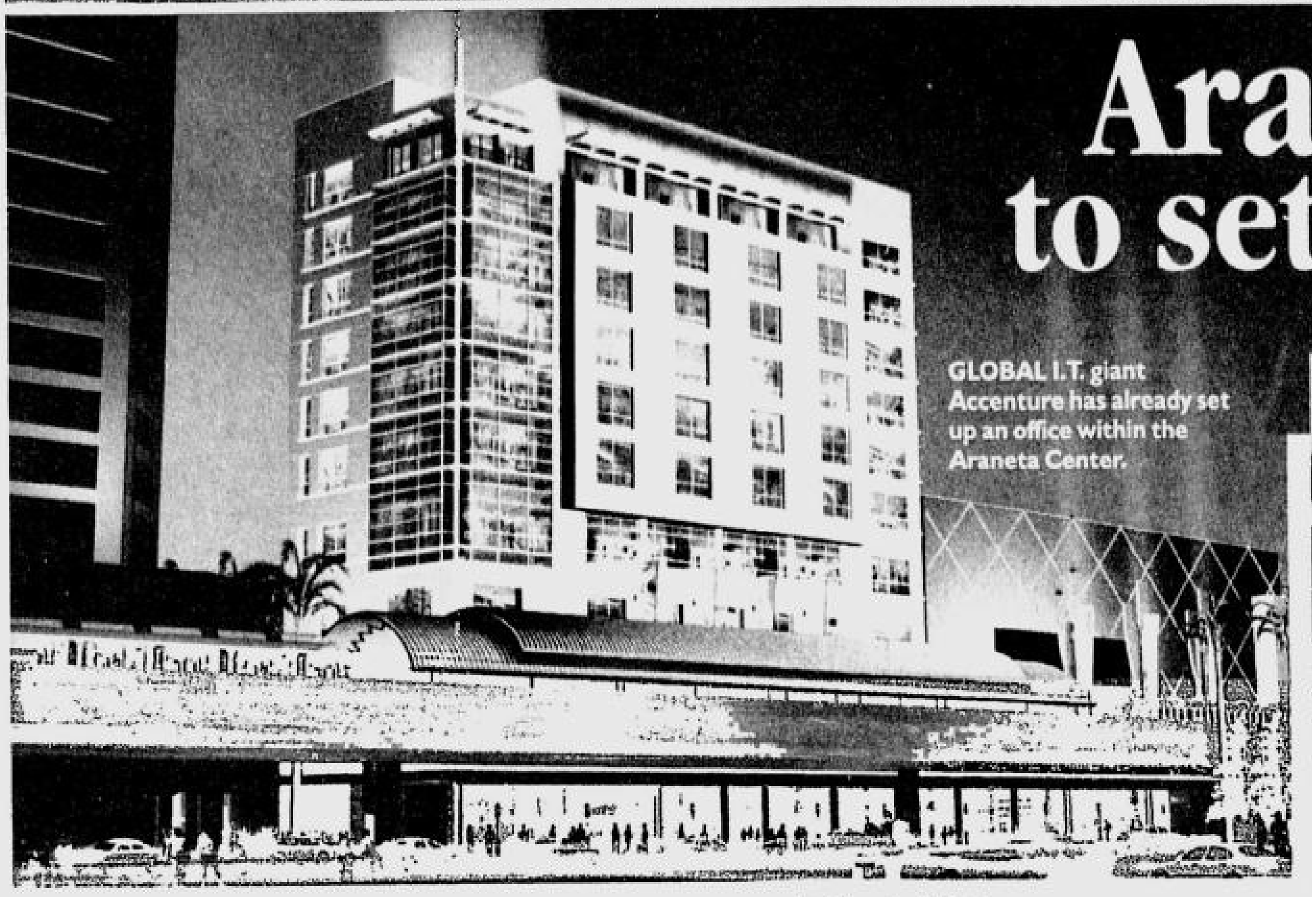
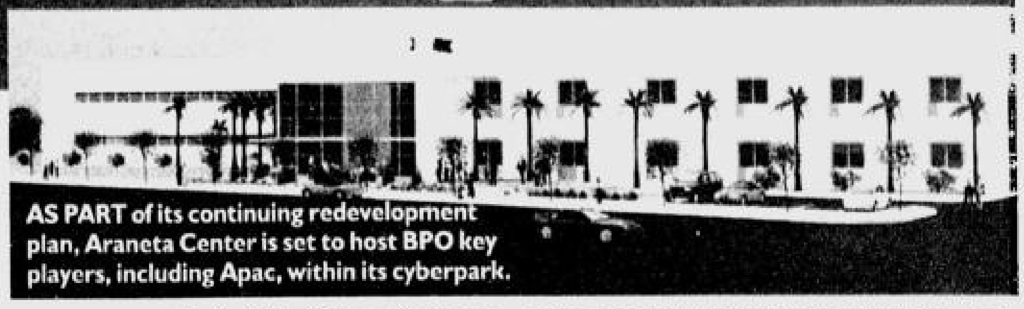
PROPERTY

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

Araneta Center to set up IT park



GLOBAL I.T. giant Accenture has already set up an office within the Araneta Center.



AS PART of its continuing redevelopment plan, Araneta Center is set to host BPO key players, including Apac, within its cyberpark.

By Charles E. Buban

THE HUGE BILLBOARD AT the Quezon City Hall says it all: Mayor Feliciano Belmonte declaring the largest city in Metro Manila as the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) capital of the Philippines.

Indeed, with the majority of Philippine Economic Zone Authority-registered call centers now operating in Libis, Cubao, Commonwealth Avenue, Novaliches, Aurora Boulevard and Timog Avenue area, the number is set to further increase as the Araneta Center is setting up its own IT park.

The Araneta Center Cyberpark will be located in an eight-hectare property where four- to six-story buildings (with each floor area measuring from 2,500 to 5,000 square meters) are being proposed.

"IT has definitely revolutionized the world's corporate landscape, and the Philippines is no exception. Key cities and provinces of the country already have their own science and technology parks," said Araneta Group of Companies chair Jorge Araneta. "It's about time the Araneta Center, itself a bustling hub of commerce, develops its own cyberpark."

Underdevelopment

But even with the cyberpark still being developed, Araneta already welcomed Accenture, a global management consulting, technology services and outsourcing company, and a major player in the business process outsourcing (BPO) industry, which occupied four floors of the Gateway Mall.

The Nasdaq-listed Apac Customer Services Inc., a leading provider of integrated customer care and acquisition services will be the first tenant at the Araneta Center Cyberpark.

Apac will have a 2,000-seat call center as part of its expansion in the country.

"Other key institutions in the BPO industry are now exploring the possibility of making Araneta Center Cyberpark as site for their corporate offices," Araneta informed.

Self-contained community

He added that with the completion of the cyberpark, Araneta Center will be a self-contained business community that intersperses shopping, dining and entertainment venues with the hustle and bustle of corporate life.

"With its accessibility and proximity to main thoroughfares and trade areas, the Araneta Center Cyberpark is set to be the country's next big step toward being the IT hub of Asia," Araneta assured.

He added that the BPO industry has made the country one of the most preferred outsourcing destinations of established companies abroad with the abundance of proactive and fluent English-speaking professionals.

"Araneta Center recognizes the impact of technology in the country's economy," said Araneta. "Hence, we have decided to participate in this growing industry and take advantage of the Philippines' esteemed position in the global BPO scene by developing a cyberpark."

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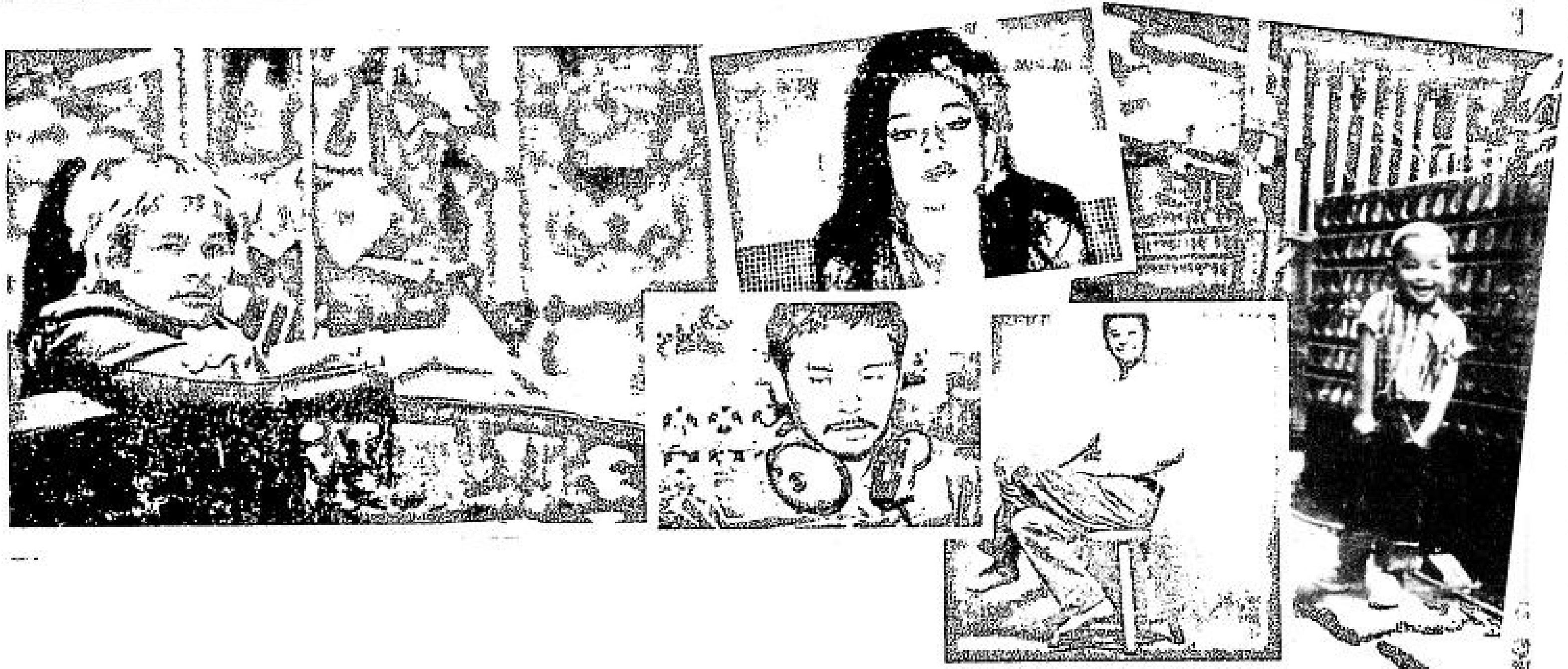

hair-looms

Tim Yap

WHEN IT COMES TO NURturing, no one else comes close to your mother.

Henri Calayag, or Mother H as he is fondly called by his "*anaks*," has cared for the locks of the likes of **Kris Aquino** (he "bang-ed" her), **Sharon Cuneta** ("I'd like to thank Henri Calayag for my hair and makeup," she used to say during her Sharon Cuneta Show peak) and **Ruffa Gutierrez-Bektas** (he blue-blacked her hair).

Much as I do not like to namedrop, the list of his clientele reads like a page off a celebrity A-list casting coup. **Charlene Gonzales-Muhlach, Dawn Zulueta-Lagdameo, Pia Guanio** and more. And that's just for show biz.

He started with **Martin Nievera** at Penthouse Live! back in the '80s and segued to attending to megastar Sharon Cuneta's makeup and tresses during her variety show heyday.

His fashion and society portfolio dates back to the days of Sari-Sari's debut and all of **Inno Sotto**'s earlier shows. His artistic collaborations with **Neal Oshima, Jun de Leon, Wig Tsymans** and many other artists and photographers have defined a generation of unforgettable images.

He's been cutting **Samantha Eduque**'s hair since she was 14, and was behind **Tina Maristela-Ocampo**'s countless transformations. "When Henri puts on my makeup, I never want to erase it because it looks so good," says the style icon.

He even went beyond the local celebsphere when he coiffed the **Paloma Picasso** and made up the **Elsa Klensch** when they visited Manila years ago. Yet all the above mentioned names that beef up his stellar resumé are just some highlights of his multi-layered career. The root of his 26-year success in the industry is how he truly nurtures the crowning glory of this royal crop.

"It gives me such joy when I see my clients happy," Mother H shares this strand of sentiment as he cuts my hair at his sanctuary, H Salon in Rustan's, where the top tier troop.

I should know. Because if my hair history has made heads turn and churned out headlines, it's all because of the scissor skills of Henri. My Mother, the hero.

It was more than a casual trip to the salon. Every sojourn to H Salon takes me to a place of happy thoughts and good memories, where my siblings and I (and there are a lot of us) pay tribute for the shear love of our Mother H.

"When I cut their hair, I feel like I cut deeper into their psyche," Henri relates. "It goes beyond aesthetics, that's why I get attached to them." And vice versa. I share the spotlight with co-Henri loyalists **Celine Lopez, Jenni**

HENRI/ C2

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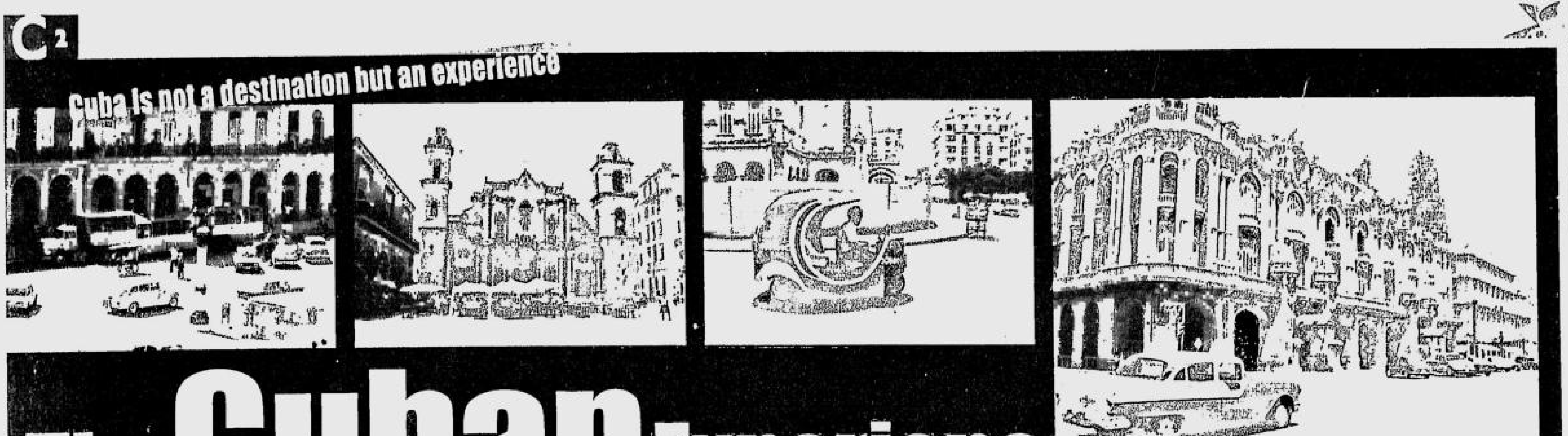


The Cuban Experience

By Steph Zubiri-Delfour

TWO OFFICIAL CURRENCIES exist in Cuba, the Cuban Peso and the Convertible Peso. The Cuban Peso is worth virtually nothing and is used by the locals to buy food at state run *agromercados* or to pay for mass transportation. The Convertible Peso is also practically worth nothing to the international money market because you can not convert it outside Cuban territory. However, within the country, it is very powerful and worth even more than the US Dollar. Used by most stores, markets and taxis, the Convertible Peso is the imperative currency for tourists and for some locals who wish to augment their purchasing power. These two currencies represent the two worlds that exist in Cuba. Two worlds separated by a thin but solid glass wall between visitors and Cubans.

The real Cuba

The real Cuba is not a destination but an experience. It is a country where one can get easily trapped in a pseudo-Disneyland type of tour, where instead of posing with Mickey, you pose with one of the many traditionally dressed Cubanas, musicians or even Castro. It is not a comfortable voyage but a real adventure. The best way to see Cuba is to borrow the eyes (and why not the salsa dancing hips while you're at it) of a real Cubano. This may prove to be difficult. The government tries its best to enforce touristic apartheid, in which they prevent the mingling of tourists with locals. Examples are the separate hotels for Cubans and foreigners, the prohibition of foreigners riding in private cars, and the watchful eye of the efficient police who may randomly ask for your papers in a bar.

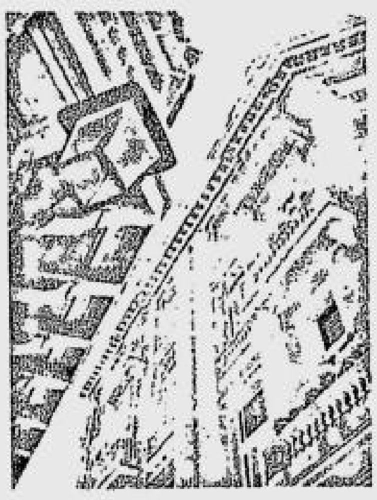
How then may we see the real Cuba? It is quite easy, if you know a bit of Spanish that is. Make yourself some Cuban friends. There may be some risk of finding the wrong friends or simply being taken aback by the poignant unusualness of their daily lives. It is one of the last few true blue (red) communist countries today. But as with any adventure, you must take a chance. Cubans are extremely warm people. They love to find out about the world outside their communist cocoon. Almost every bartender, taxi driver, food vendor or merchant loves to chat and discover the world through you. He'll want to know where you're from, what your country is like, what you do, why you're there.

One barman was surprised to hear I was Filipina—he said I was the only Filipina he's ever met. Cuba apparently is quite familiar with our Filipino seafarers, who by the way have a very good reputation.

Cheaper and charming

You also must avoid staying in hotels and instead stay at *casas particulares*. These are private homes that have authorization from the government to board people for a small fee. They prove to be much cheaper and much more charming than the state owned hotels. Our landlady, Mirtha, was our Cuban mommy and cooked the best fried plantains in the world. Her family gave us much better tips on where to eat and what to see than any of the three (yes, three!!!) guidebooks we had.

Our trip started with one week in Havana and then we drove to Trinidad where we stayed one week more. We were going to drive to Santiago de Cuba until we realized that it was more than a thousand kilometers away! We decided to save that for another trip. Havana is a clip from an old 1950's MGM flick where someone suddenly pressed pause, with the Chevy caught running in slow motion in front of the capitol. The architecture is beautiful and the charm comes from the rundown feel of the whole atmosphere. The music is infused in the air and in the souls of the people. At each corner, just as we imagine, someone is dancing or singing. This is not just for tourism's sake but this is what actually keeps them alive. It runs in their veins. The city is full of surprises. Trust your instinct and not the tour guides. The nicest looking place in the guidebook may turn out to be filled with *jineteras* (glorified prostitutes) and the most rundown, verging-on-scary-looking place may just be THE place to be. Victor and I ended up in a small, dilapidated hole in the wall called Casa de la Trova where we heard the voice of a beautiful black angel. A woman singing Cuban classics accompanied by a fellow with a guitar enchanted us and the rest of the 10-man audience there, 50 percent of whom were above 70 years old.



Honeymooning: Steph and Victor explore Cuba

One-man service

Amor was a lovely *paladar* (a restaurant in someone's private home) recommended by my *ninong* Nene Lacson. The home and all its exquisite colonial furniture were extremely well preserved. The food was excellent and so was the one-man service, worthy of five star French hotels.

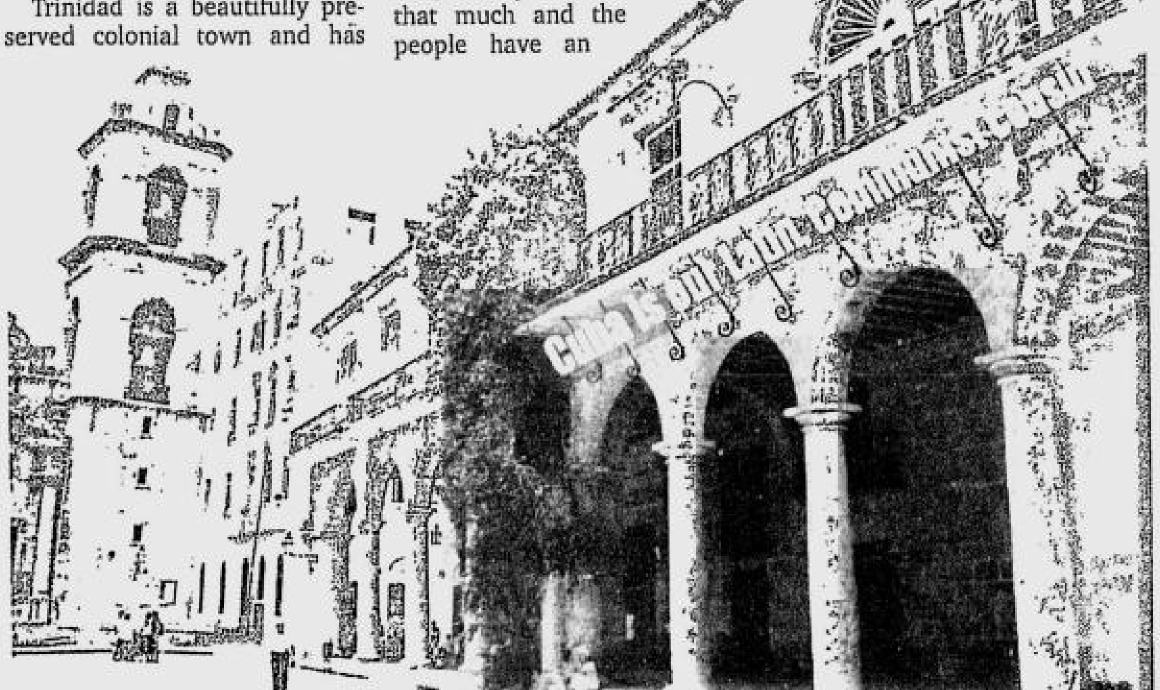
The drive to Trinidad was long. Mostly because we got lost several times. The highways are impeccable, with absolutely no cars, but absolutely no signs. It took us two hours to figure out we were going in the opposite direction. Numerous though were the propaganda billboards. *Patria o muerte, Viva Fidel* in bold letters and my personal favorite, a picture of Bush dressed as Hitler. One of the highlights of Cuba is the political ambiance. We were present during Castro's illness and everyone was persuaded that the Americans would invade any minute.

Trinidad is a beautifully preserved colonial town and has earned the Unesco World Heritage status. Our lovely friends, Lester and Ana, showed us the proper way to salsa inside a giant cave disco. Yes, a natural cave was turned into a club. Dancing among the stalactites was incredible. The acoustics were amazing. We also had our most incredible meal in the home of our friends. Giant fried crab claws, slow-baked lobsters with tamale, pressure cooked *bonito* in a tomato pineapple sauce and, of course, *congri* or rice cooked with red beans and cumin. And lots and lots of fried bananas.

Our cousin Cuba

Cuba is not too exotic for the Filipino. I've come to the conclusion that Cuba is our Latin, communist cousin. We share the same Spanish colonial history, the same American period, the same vegetation and climate. They love to sing, dance, eat and do it all with the family. I felt so close to them. What is then the point of visiting Cuba? Cultural and political tourism. The creole music and food, not to mention the mojitos, daiquiris and my new discovery the *canchachara* (honey, lime and rum) make up the fun experience. However, visiting Cuba has a more profound aspect. The people live differently. There is no real private property nor assets, money isn't worth that much and the people have an obvious lack of freedom. They cannot leave the country unless they're sent by the state for work. They must show up at rallies and communist meetings lest they have trouble with their job. On the other side of the coin, each person has their basic needs met. They are fed by a small book that allots them so many kilos of rice and the like per month, even rum and cigars. They have free education and healthcare. They also have a roof over their heads. There is no real economic elite, everyone is more or less equal. This is where the point of reflection comes in. What is more important in life, freedom or survival?

These are the things we encounter only on the other side of the thin glass wall. The abundant hospitality of the Cubans, their ability to enjoy life to the fullest despite their less than privileged condition and their uncanny similarity to us Filipinos. It is no doubt not the must luxurious destination on the planet but one of the most eye-opening and fulfilling experiences. You leave a more understanding person. We made good friends and great memories. Santiago de Cuba is still waiting for us to come.



Henri Calayag, uncut

THE THING ABOUT FAME IS THAT ... I LIVED IT!

The thing I love most about what I do is ... playing and having fun.

People might be surprised to know that ... I'm gay.

The most important thing I've ever learned is ... not to take drugs anymore and to let go the one I loved.

I wish when I started off I've been told to ... tell a story.

The worst thing that ever happened to me was ... I was caught in bed with someone by my lover.

And what taught this to me was ... to be loyal, faithful and determined.

The secret to happiness is ... life itself.

My best ever outfit consisted of ... an array of the best clothes from designers from the past 50 years.

My Super! Saturday night consists of ... my friends as my family and my *anak-anakans* like Tim.

The soundtrack to my life would include ... Sound of Music forever.

If I was invisible for a day, I would ... be air so I can travel fast.

If I was the most powerful person on earth .... I would still be me but super powerful.

The best thing about family are ... togetherness and values.

When I'm gone, they'll probably say ... I was a mother to all of them.

When I retire, I would like ... a big harem so I can enjoy my friends and my *anak-anakans* and take care and guide them.

The world would be a much better place if ... if everyone is all about fashion.

My hero is ... is Tim Yap because he is my *bunso*.

The thing that makes my life worth living is ... my craft.

My greatest hope for the future is ... no more politics.

The worst thing somebody said about me was ... I was *mataray*.

My favorite moments are when ... having simple quality time with my friends and having one-on-one talks with one of my *anaks*.

My most embarrassing moment was when ... I called someone a different name.

I'm saving up for ... old age.

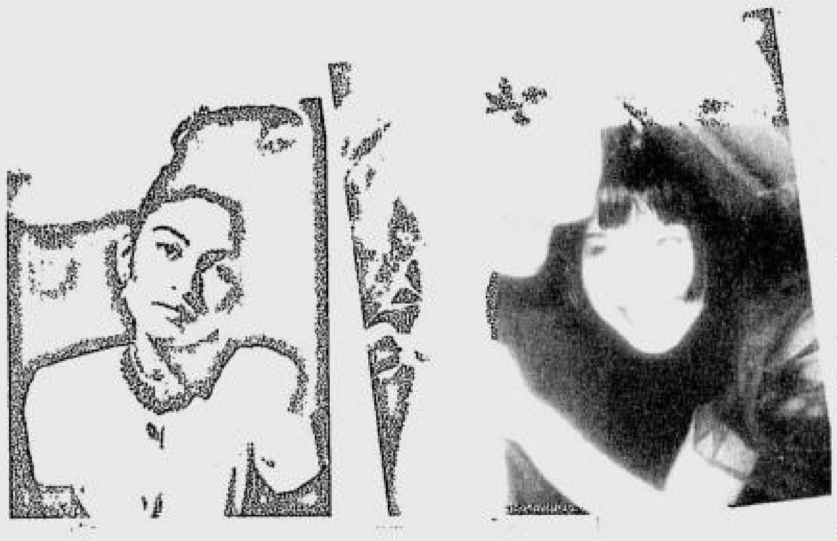
My biggest indulgence ... was sex!

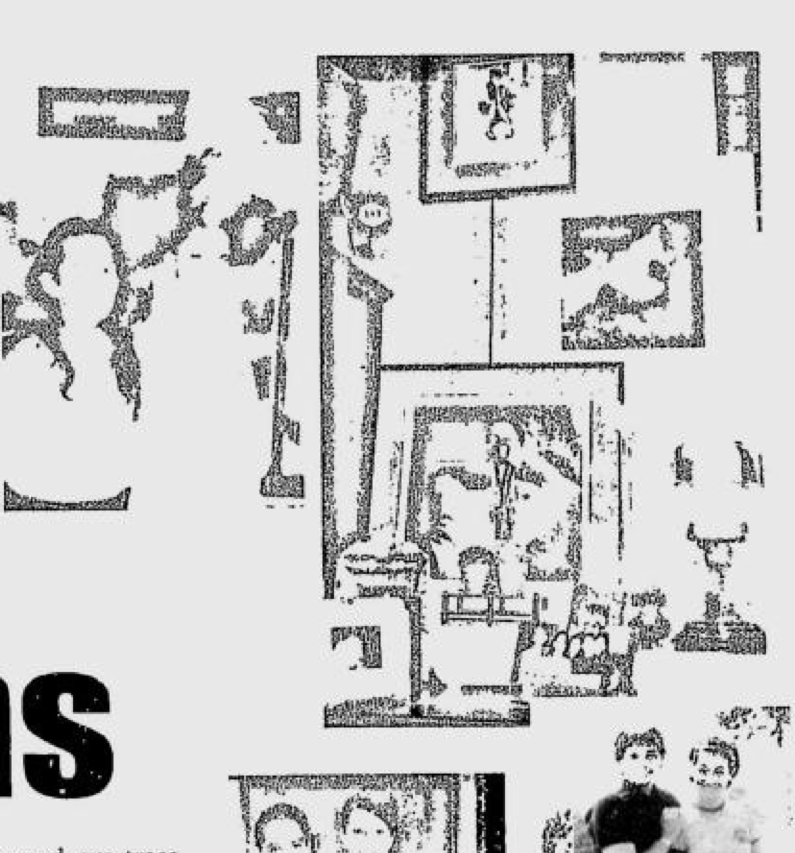
My current state of mind is ... to stay a float in my career.

If someone would play me in my biopic it would be ... Tim Yap.

My 5 favorite words are ... Secret.

I aspire to be... always a better version of me.





hair-looms

From page C1

Epperson, Ruby Gan, Tweety de Leon-Gonzales, Apples Aberin-Sadhwani, Wanda Louiallien and more, who flock to his salon not just for outer pampering but also to get our daily, weekly or monthly H dosage.

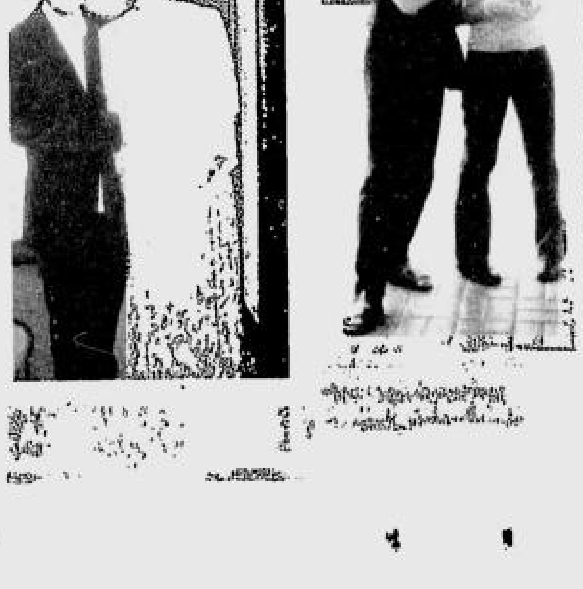
You see, Henri is the artist's artist. His talent lies in transmuting his creative force to the heads he touches. Somehow when you are on the Henri chair, having a part of you cut off, he replenishes the lost locks with pixie dust, leaving you transformed. Whereas other stylists are happy to give you the same *siete* look for the next 10 years, Mother H as an artist looks 10 years ahead, reinventing you each time.

In this exclusive Super! spread, we trace Henri's roots via a photo gallery—witness highlights of Henri's life from being a drag queen to queen mother.

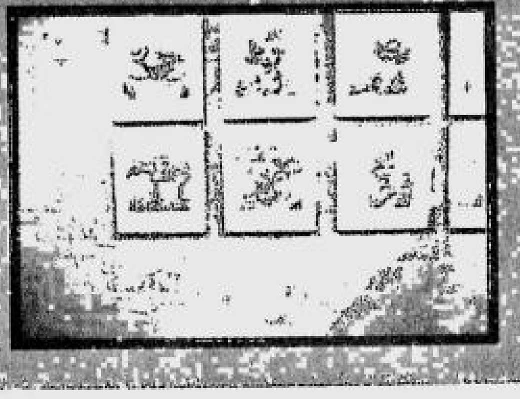
Now 51, Henri is wiser and still hungry to express his life-long vocation. "I love to work with new blood because of the exchange of energies. I want to know that I can be at par with them," he self-deprecatingly adds. He goes on to enumerate a list of people he would like to thank in his 26-year career, and people whose works he admires.

"Life is about energy, creativity and love," he proceeds to take off my salon cape and shows me a mirror, yet he is the one who turns reflective.

Indeed, Mother knows best.



fe with all its sugar and spice sounds yum to me



Milenyo, Marilyn, Joe Malone and the moral of this story

KACE'S CAROUSEL

KC Concepcion

NO DAMAGE, REALLY. Just wet," my Tita says about her open-spaced nest in lovely Laguna. Little did I know I was missing what is said to be the biggest typhoon to hit Manila in over a decade.

Uprooted trees

We Filipinos living abroad surely heard about the thousands of trees uprooted all over. How sad to see hundreds of trees with their roots up in the air—even in seemingly sublime places like Legazpi Village, Salcedo Village, Forbes, Alabang. Westgrove Heights lost 500 trees! So somber and disenchanting somehow.

And though some people were lucky to have untouched homes, a five-day power outage, cellsites down by storm, flying fastfood signs damaging parked cars, missing rooftops and ruined heartbeats tell us a tale of Nature being so violent. And three hours before the storm, who would have known?

After three and a half years of living away, yesterday was the first time my family and I reattended church. We spent much of our week praying for electricity, water systems, hearts, minds, families, lives and Metro Manila to be restored. I have to admit, though, that I was in the process of texting friends in Manila a few days before, sharing my escape in photography exhibits and guiltless imagination. To feel better about such indulgences, I convinced myself that I could just hear my aunt saying to me now, "Thank you so much for a spot of Paris and beauty and art. Haven't had power for four nights now and although moonlight bathes my nest, I see stars when I take cold heater-less showers." Heater-less showers. Heartless storms.

All of us have high points and low points in our lives and who is going through better or worse is not really the point. For all of us, there are things we really need to sort out, our brain needs to absorb what happened, our soul needs to eat it up. This is when you know that in the end you will have to help yourself make a choice, and to choose a direction. Are you going to continue with your frustrations? Are you going to be happy? Are you going to pacify yourself by helping somebody else sleep better today?

Marilyn

Just as nature could be so unexpectedly intrusive and violent, so could other things. In a photo exhibit at the Musée Maillol, were the last shots ever taken of Marilyn Monroe before her death in 1962. Wrapped in images of her, I realized you can never really figure out how the mind of a larger-than-life movie star works (or anyone else's for that matter). Her photos were ethereal, with her blond hair and light skin twisted between crisp and white linen against a blank backdrop bathed in natural light. The whole look was white on white on white. Showcased, as well, were photographs in a '60s coral-orange tint that might be difficult to replicate today. However, what was more interesting about the Monroe exhibit was seeing Marilyn exist in so many different states of mind. On one wall, her photos made her look nonchalantly ready to crash into bed, solemn and drunk as a daisy. On another wall, she was stunning, a sweetheart, happy and high. One would also describe her with the words simple, subtle, and utterly smashed, as, at times, it seemed she was either one or the other. But then I would glance to my left, and on another wall were images of the icon, many different Marilyns, all scrambled together.

Doing that photo shoot could have taken her anywhere between two hours to a whole day, but one thing is for sure: there was something going on in her life at that point in time that led to her death less than a week later. Not knowing her story, sometimes all we can do is guess what is going on in another person's life. The only way is to read between the lines, to understand things from both sides: false lashes fluttering over sad eyes, pearls and diamonds draping over a hungry body, fabulous white heels sinfully stained with drops of red wine. All these could have been clear signs that a suicide would happen a week later. But, maybe, nobody bothered to look hard enough. Maybe we don't listen enough, or empathize enough. While some may do some acting and concealing ever so well, others might not be acting on things they should be doing, quick enough, or hard enough. We all need to learn when to keep things private, and when to share with the world, when to keep an eye out and when not to meddle. Some things are better left unsaid, other things deserve to be immortalized—in photos, in scripts, in spirit—neverendingly beautiful and alive. Marilyn will forever remain the latter.

Joe Malone

On a "lighter note" it is much too important to take things in with some humor and a grain of (perfumed) salt. Some may say I am a late bloomer when it comes to discovering British perfume brand Joe Malone, but prancing through the perfume boutique I also had the pleasure of discovering that, which others may not be entirely aware of. To all fashionistas, lo and behold, this perfume is actually less expensive here in Paris than in the UK from where the brand and product originate: a bottle may be worth 80 euros in Paris and 100 pounds up in London! The concept of it is that customers are provided the opportunity to concoct their own personal fragrance. The boutique then becomes a mini venue where the mixing and matching of various fragrances becomes possible with the end goal of being able to stand out in the crowd, quite possibly with your nose raised up high. Skimming through Grapefuit Lime and French Vanilla, Fig and French Lavender, I noticed that any scent that had the word "French" in it turned out to have a petite touch of baby powder. I then concocted a floral French Lime flavor to suit my young girl-regression needs, spritzed the oils on my pulse spots (as is common yet an obligatory demonstration is often required) and continued to what would be the yummy highlight of the evening.

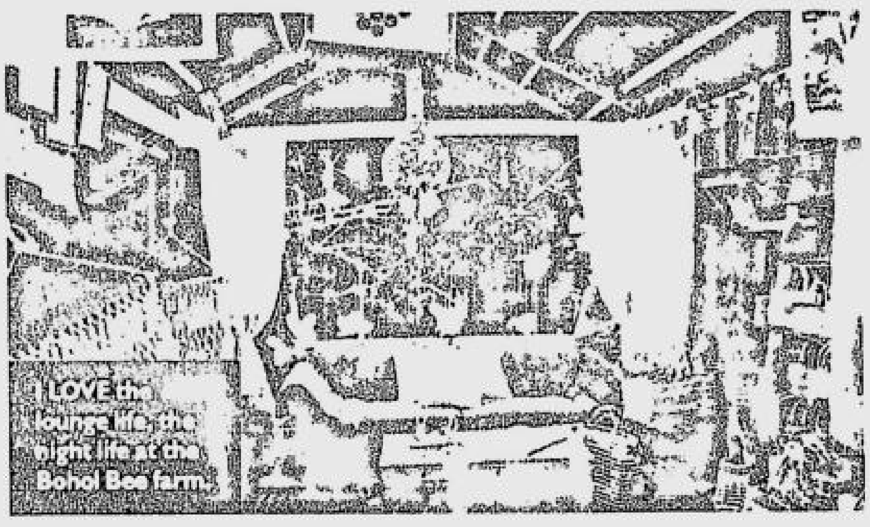
Victoire de Castellane

Another important fact to know is that Victoire de Castellane, designer of Dior's jewelry line, LOVES DESSERT. Coming to her jewelry exhibit while still at France's first department store, Le Bon Marché, I doubted she ever got stressed with work with all that sugar and the means to afford Parisian pastries. On a screen via a video projector, there she was with her baby bangs and quirky clothing, pointing to four cakes and other desserts saying, "Ca, et ca, et ca, et ca. Merci!"

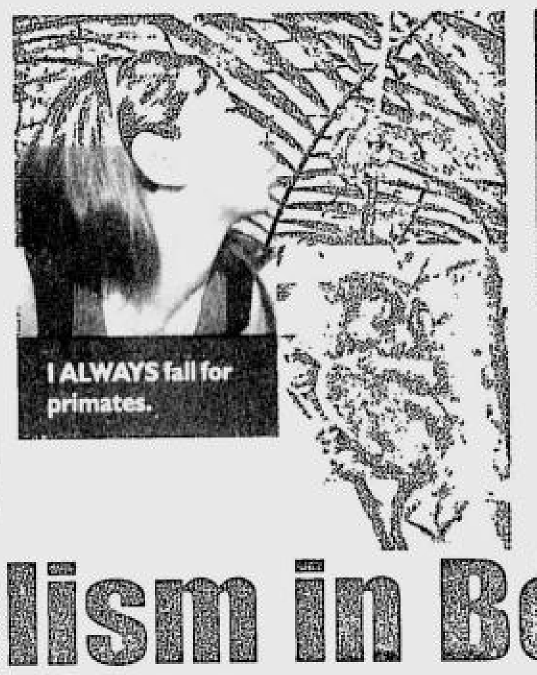
I sat down on one of her custom-made French chairs (with white fabric seasoned with colorful images of fancy rings, candy wrappers, and semi-precious stones) bewildered and thinking to myself: When you find yourself wanting this, that, and oh, that other thing, this is when you know you are going completely crazy. Not that crazy is necessarily a bad thing, but we all have to admit that we can hardly ever be all things for all people. After having a taste of the many sides of work, love, life, there will come a point sometime where you will have to make a choice: which dessert best suits my taste, which path is more valuable for me to follow? From where you are, you just have to stop and think, am I going to stay, or am I going to go? Once you decide, you then have to think of how to wait or how to leave. Someday there will be a tipping point waiting to be reached, and once you reach it, it's up to you to decide whether or not to look back. And when you're tired of thinking at all, then you just go where the river takes you, let some things go, and allow them to flow to where they will. Get hurt, enter the chaos, and through it all try to keep still. "Sounds yum," Victoire might say. Well, life with all its sugar and spice sounds yum to me.

So the moral of the story is this: when you can't take the stress, instead of resorting to some silent way of exiting the universe, just run out in the streets and wake the neighbors up. Or you can just calm down, deal with your situation, pacify yourself and zen out. You have to make a choice, after all, and at the end of the day, it's got to be yours. And time will really help you sort it through, which is something you've just got to force yourself to do.

I was about to sleep when I still smelled roses on my wrist and the faint hint of French Lime. And with just one whiff, for whatever it was worth, the world stood still while I thanked God for one calm evening, and one good afternoon.



I LOVE the lounge life, the night life at the Bohol Bee farm.



I ALWAYS fall for primates.

INTRODUCING the "shake buri buri dancers"

CHILL factor chairs

Magic and Realism in Bohol

By Tals Diaz
Photos by Robbie Sibal

Of Giant's tears, oyster feasts, and naked planting by the full moon... welcome to Bohol, where everyone believes there's more to reality than what it seems

I LEARNED A FEW secrets while on a bus cruising through Bohol last weekend. One of them was the secret of the *ube*.

For the Boholanos, who believe their *ube* to be the nation's best, the secret lies in an age-old fertility ritual. The *ube* must be planted by a woman under the light of a full moon. Yet not just any Kate Moss ingénue would do; the woman has to be endowed with, well, large breasts. This chest-blessed, chosen femme fatale must also plant the *ube* alone, unseen in the blanket of night, and she must be fully naked. As she does this, she chants, "*Lumaki ka, lumaki ka kagaya nito!*" Thus was revealed the Visayan island's best-kept secret of growing such exceptional purple roots.

Apparently, a similar planting ritual is done with cassava, except in this case it's done by a male. A well-endowed male. 'Nuf said, I'll let your imagination take its cue from here!

Bohol is just blessed not just with fertile soil, but an even more fertile imagination. In fact, I'm betting that had Lewis Carroll stepped here before, he would have found another sort of wonderland. The author would have written a slightly different story, yet just as magical. Instead of writing about a smiling Chesire, he'd probably be charmed by the tiny, endearing wide-eyed tarsier. Or he'd be inspired by the story of the fresh, miraculous healing waters that flow into the middle of the Dauis Church by the sea, where Christians once hid from ransacking pirates centuries ago.

On this island, there are cacao-colored hills, more than a thousand of them, that resemble gigantic Hershey's kisses side by side. Legend tells that these hills were formed by two feuding giants who battled each other by hurling rocks, sand and boulders. A more romantic legend says that a young and powerful giant called Arogo fell in love with a mortal woman named Aloya. When Aloya died, the giant shed great tears, and when these dried up, they formed the world-famous Chocolate Hills.

There are stories everywhere, and people live by these tales that blend the real and fantastic. Out here, faith is strong, and magical realism is lived out.

See Food Diet

What actually brought me to this magical land recently was a little dose of reality—the need for continued eco-conservation programs and eco-tourism efforts in Bohol. Thus, I became a chance passenger who had tagged along with the munificent HSBC staff and World Wildlife Fund volunteers on their annual nature trip.

SO THIS is what the buzz is about!

BOHOL idol serenading the river cruisers.

Every year, the big-hearted global partners venture off to areas in the Philippines where conservation work is done by WWF to support environmental awareness and promote social responsibility.

One of the latest attractions of the island that exemplifies such a proactive stance in making good use of natural resources is one remote village in Buenavista, along the snaking Cambuhat River. The eighty-plus villagers have come up with their own blueprint for sustained living. Through their united efforts, they have put together an eco-tour package that offers a boat ride through the Cambuhat river, that leads to a kaleidoscopic seafood feast of oysters, crabs, shrimps and *takla* by the river bank. Even here, Lewis Carroll would have "talked of many things," and perhaps composed his famous Oyster rhyme, inspired by the endless servings of fresh, sumptuous oysters to feast on. Heck, even I wanted to write sonnets about it! The Buenavista Social Clubbers have created an alternative, income-generating livelihood by growing and harvesting these oysters. After stuffing ourselves with the aphrodisiac bivalves, the villagers then entertained all the guests with a cultural dance that shows how they make *buri*, a fine, powder-like substance that became a source of food when World War II broke out before. *Buri* is also used for making *sago* and clothing.

Honey, I'm home

In Bohol, I had discovered a land of milk and honey. Quite literally in fact, since we found our weekend sanctuary in the lush and picturesque Bohol Bee Farm on Panglao island. The shifting colors of sapphire and aquamarine waters meeting clear skies provide a dramatic backdrop to the island resort.

The Bohol Bee farm is yet another example of sustainable living. The Queen Bee is Vicky Wallace, who has cultivated a little organic community here, the only one of its kind on the island, which advocates organic farming and sustainable agriculture. Of course, what's a bee farm without, um... bees, right? I got up close and personal to the honeycombs and found out what the buzz was all about.

The intrepid beekeeper (whom I have dubbed as "Hon") laid out the racks to show us the colony of bees busily making fresh honey. I was pretty mesmerized as to how Hon could fearlessly talk about the secret life of bees while there were about a zillion of these stinging creatures flying about that looked like they could send you into a coma with one bad look. I found out that one bee makes only a fraction of a teaspoon of honey in its lifetime. Which means only one thing— for every single cup of coffee I had taken with honey, thousands of bees have offered up their life's work just to make things less bitter. Now that is sweet.

Rock the Boat

I'd say the highlight of this island exploration was the river boat cruise through Loboc River. Who says restaurants have to be on land? Bright flowers are festooned around this pretty, wide boat that can host a mobile fiesta on water. For the in-float entertainment, we were serenaded by a local musician, (whom I had dubbed as "Bohol Idol") This Bohol Idol had, well, rocked the boat with his rich renditions of rock classics. (Rakenrol sa Bohol!)

His voice still haunts the speakers in my head, if for one particular song that was a fitting tribute to the moment. It was "Cool Change," by aptly enough, the Little River Band. Like the flecks of sunlight reflecting on the waters, the lyrics illuminated a few forgotten thoughts. Now that my life is so prearranged, I know that it's time for a cool change, so the song went and lingered in my head.

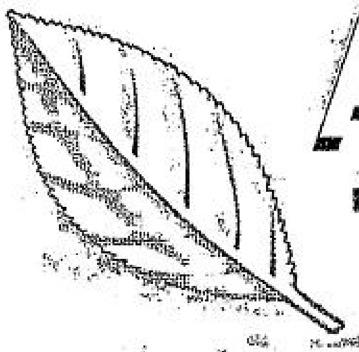
It is always time for a cool change, perhaps for this trip it was a change in perspective, in being able to look at our realities and being able to fashion some kind of magic out of it. If I have taken something out of Bohol and its people, it is this lesson. I did say I learned a few secrets on this island!

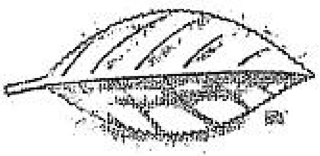
iXTRAORDINARY TIMES

Saturday, October 7, 2006

EXCLUSIVE • UNBELIEVABLE • AMAZING • OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD

STRANGE BUT TRUE: A COLA THAT'S ACTUALLY GOOD FOR YOU!





NEW TEAZZ IS GREEN TEA WITH A FIZZ.

[illegible] its called Teazz - this amazing drink combines [illegible] and fizz of cola with the healthy goodness [illegible] tea

Teazz
Green Tea with a Fizz
Cola Flavor

Jay Contreras, Kamikazee Vocalist

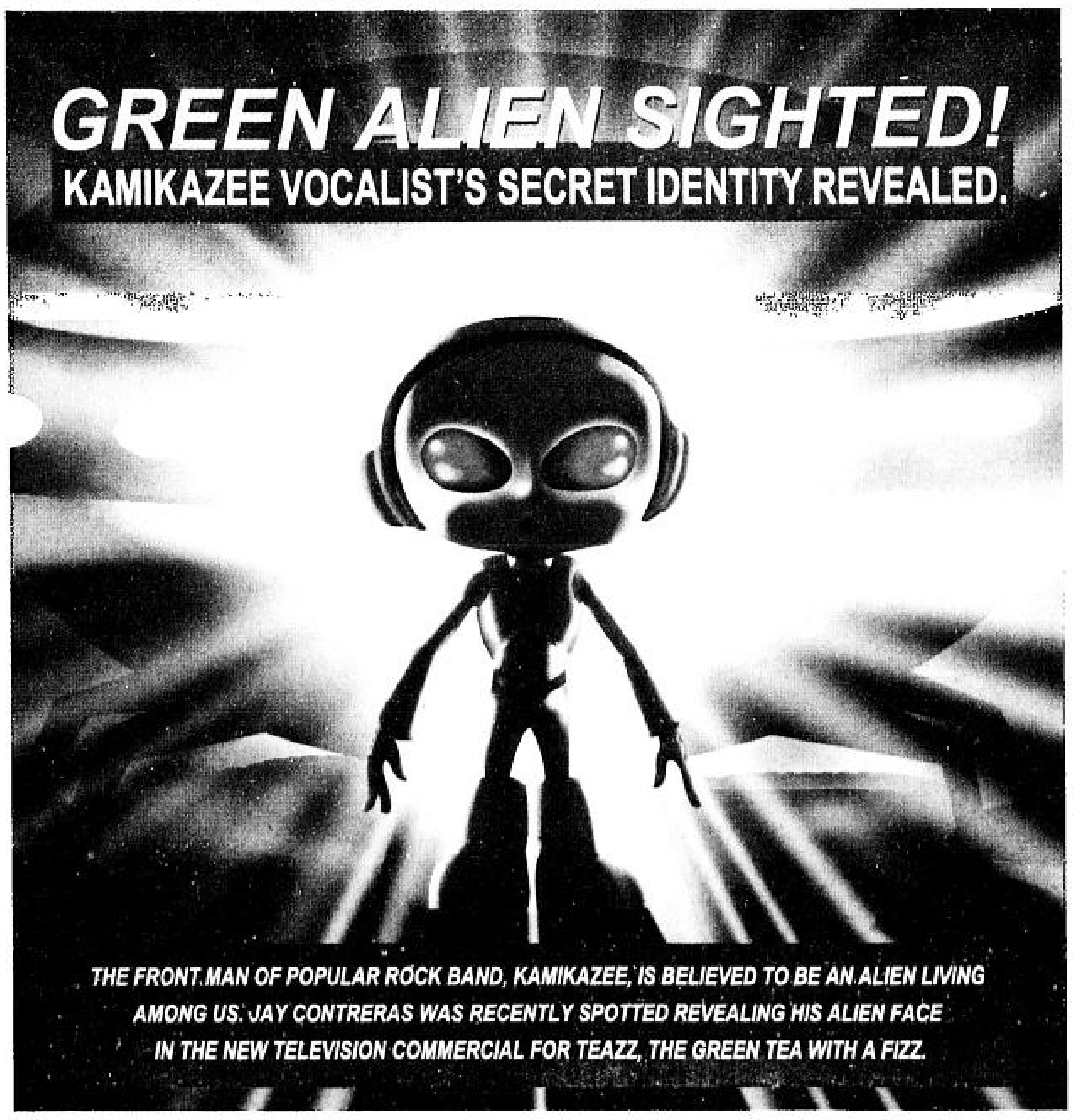
UNCANNY RESEMBLANCE?

Little Alien Dude

MORE AMAZING FLAVORS!

COLA LITE, LEMON AND RASPBERRY

Teazz
Teazz
Teazz

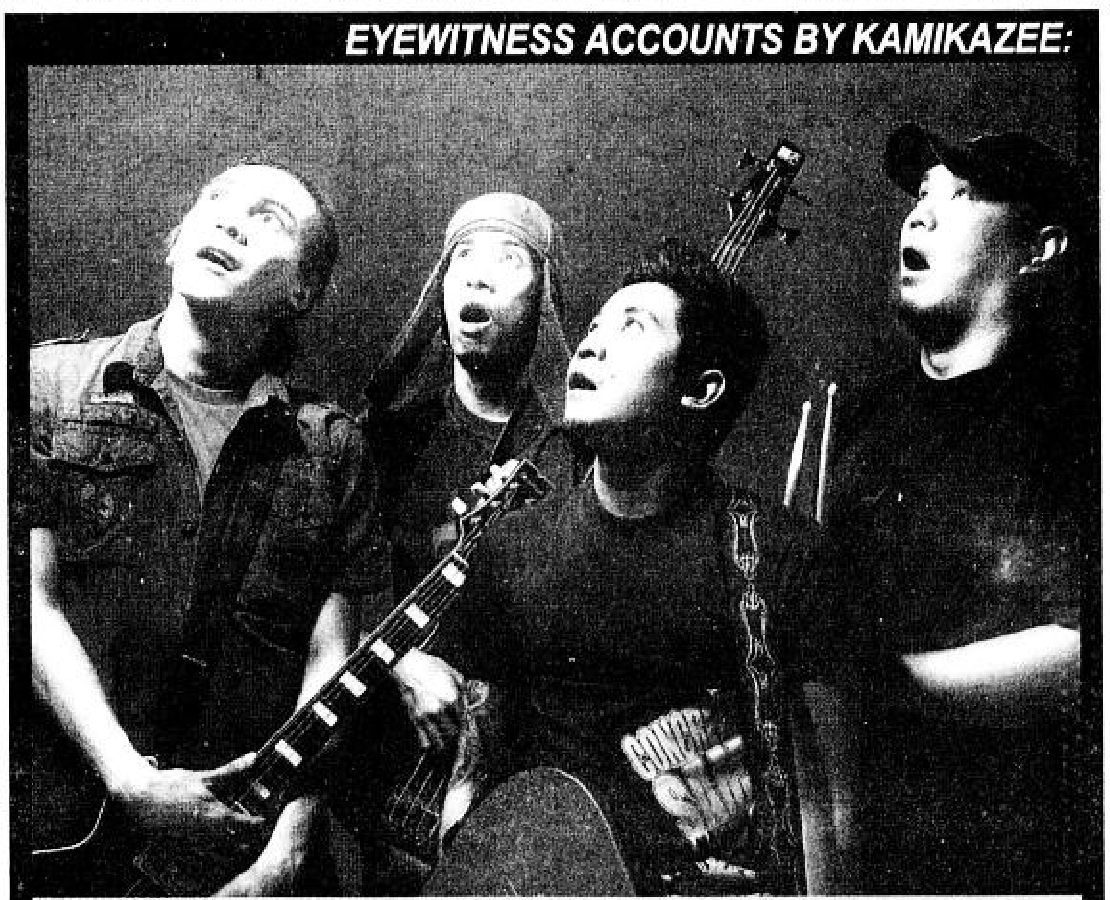


GREEN ALIEN SIGHTED!

KAMIKAZEE VOCALIST'S SECRET IDENTITY REVEALED.

THE FRONT MAN OF POPULAR ROCK BAND, KAMIKAZEE, IS BELIEVED TO BE AN ALIEN LIVING AMONG US. JAY CONTRERAS WAS RECENTLY SPOTTED REVEALING HIS ALIEN FACE IN THE NEW TELEVISION COMMERCIAL FOR TEAZZ, THE GREEN TEA WITH A FIZZ.

EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS BY KAMIKAZEE:



Led Tuyay, Guitarist	Puto Astete, Bassist	Jomal Linao, Guitarist	Bords Burdeos, Drummer

TEAZZ TRIVIA:

COLA IS NOT A KIND OF DRINK.
IT'S A FLAVOR THAT COMES FROM A COLA NUT!

NEW Green Teazz Green Tea with a Fizz

THE GOOD COLA

Super

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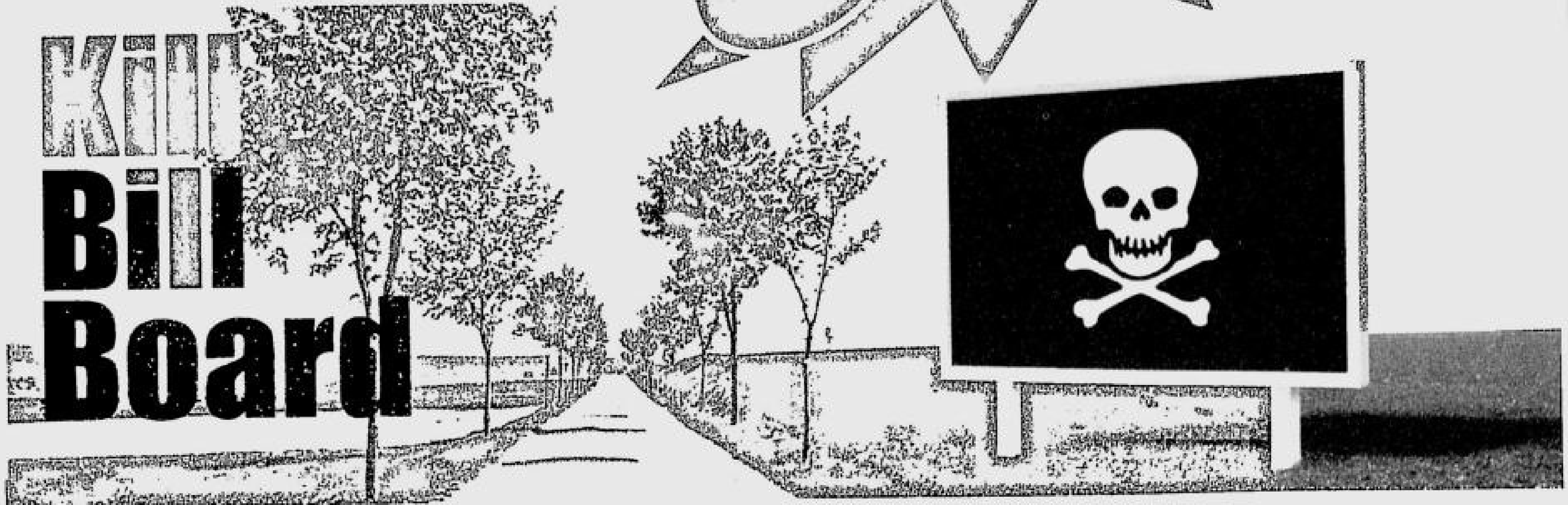
style . urban living . pop culture . entertainment . recreation

Kill Bill Board



Heed the writing on the wall and bring back the sky!

OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

THERE WAS DEFINITELY SOMETHING strange, but oddly beautiful in the skyscape that day.

I was driving along the highway, and for once, the blueness of the sky seemed to open up to me in the horizon. What was so different about that morning, I asked myself, wondering if I had absentmindedly taken a double dose of caffeine in my cup of joe. I realized thereafter that there were giant things that were physically absent, taken down, and subsequently proving that they should never have been there in the first place. The ubiquitous billboards that have blighted the metropolis.

See, it was the first time I had hit the road since the super Typhoon "Milenyo" ravaged Luzon. It had to take Mother Nature's wrath to make the public realize that those billboards were not only hideous, but are also freaking dangerous. They distract motorists, they close out the blue sky, and when winds over 210 kph blow, they happen to fall on people. Apparently, ugliness can kill.

The writing on the wall

Sometime ago, we ran an editorial in Super! about Manila's ever evolving uglification process, largely due to those maddening billboards that are not just erected anymore in open spaces and on top of buildings, but in every nook, cranny, post and inch of space on columns, lamp posts, overpasses and bridges. Even our trains have become moving advertisements! I'm surprised these advertisers haven't thought of using traffic cops as advertising channels yet.

As if having to deal with the exasperating traffic weren't bad enough, I have had to just suck it all up and numb myself to the onslaught of ads and announcements assailing my senses. Every mass-marketed product under the (blocked) sun is veritably shoved in your face, from cell phones and cell phone networks, shoes, adult diapers, whitening lotions (ew!), cars, car insurance, burger meals, and shoddy clothes brands that ironically display an alarming lack of fashion sense. Some of these billboards don't even pass Grammar 101, like this toothpaste ad that proclaimed, "White teeth is sexy." (Sic!!!)

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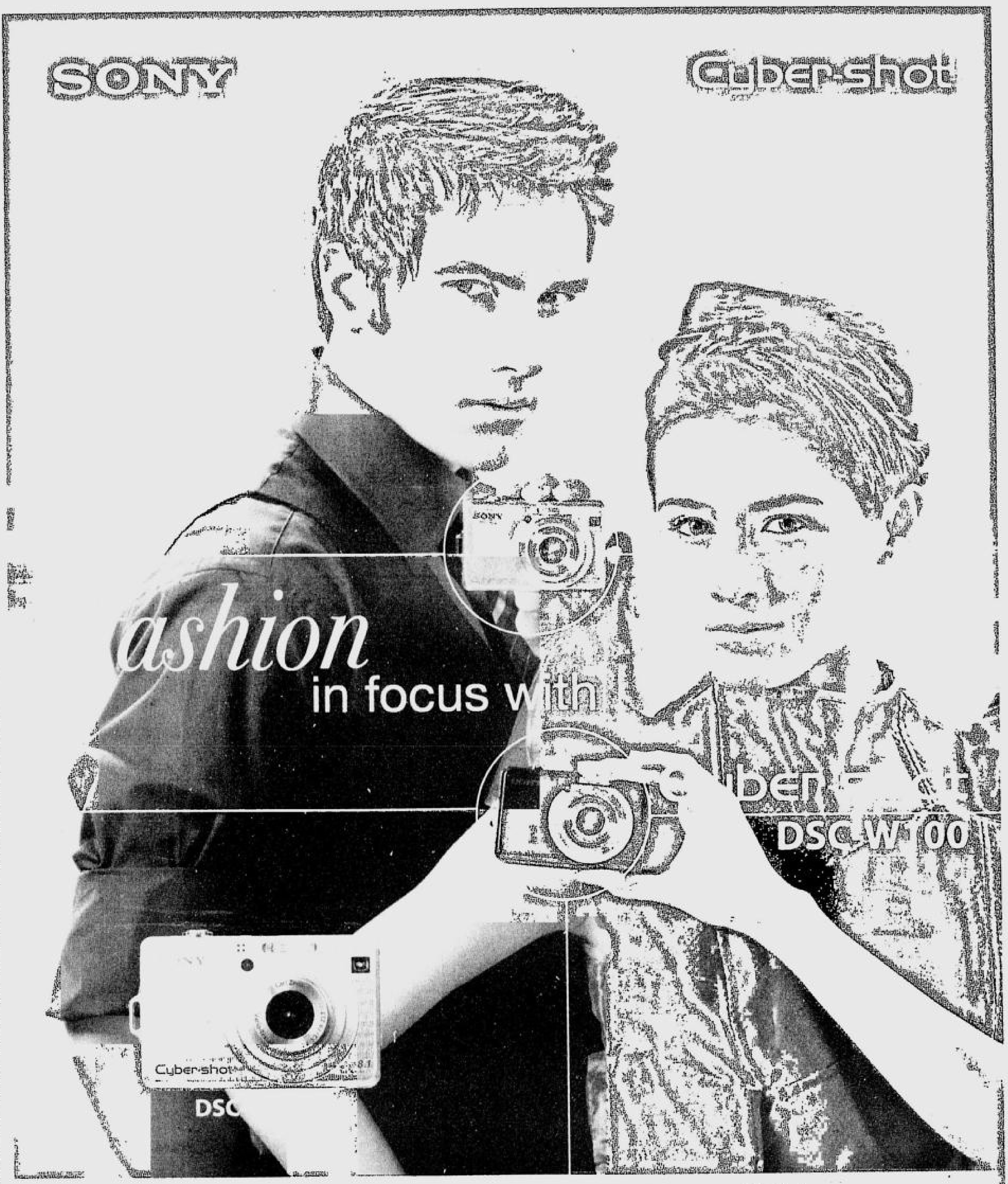
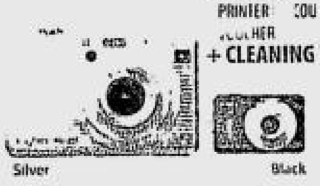
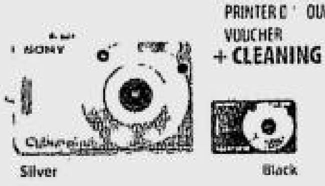
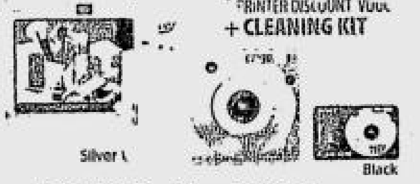



0% INTEREST 24mos.
+ P3,000 ACCESSORY G
+ P5,000 PRINTER DISCOUNT VOUCHER
+ CLEANING KIT
Silver
Black

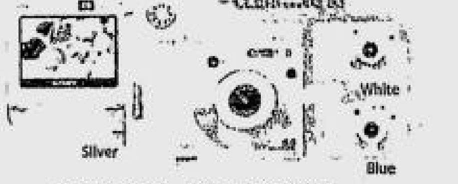
DSC-W100 Before: Php 30,999
Now: Php 28,999
- Effective 8.1 Mega Pixels
- 64MB Internal zMemory
- 2.5" Large LCD Screen
- Carl Zeiss Vario-Tessar Lens


0% INTEREST 24mos.
+ P3,000 ACCESSORY G
+ P5,000 PRINTER D OU VOUCHER
+ CLEANING KIT
Silver
Black

DSC-W70 Php 26,999
- Effective 7.2 Mega Pixels
- 58MB Internal Memory
- 2.5" Large LCD Screen
- Carl Zeiss Vario-Tessar Lens


0% INTEREST 24mos.
+ P1,000 ACCESSORY
+ P5,000 PRINTER DISCOUNT VOUC
+ CLEANING KIT
Silver
Black

DSC-W50 Php 22,999
- 6.1 Mega Pixels
- Carl Zeiss Vario-Tessar Lens
- 2.5" Large Sized LCD
- Anti Blur Solution: High Sensitivity Mode
- Lithium Ion Battery


0% INTEREST 24mos.
+ P1,
+ P5,000
+ CLEA IG KI
Silver
White
Blue

DSC-W30 Php 19,999
- 6.1 Mega Pixels
- Carl Zeiss Vario-Tessar Lens
- 2.0" Large Sized LCD
- Anti Blur Solution: High Sensitivity Mode
- Lithium Ion Battery

Without High Sensitivity

With High Sensitivity

High Sensitivity ISO 1000

With Higher Sensitivity of up to ISO1000*, the Cyber-shot W series offers enhanced sharpness and clarity when capturing subjects at high shutter speeds, or under low lighting conditions.

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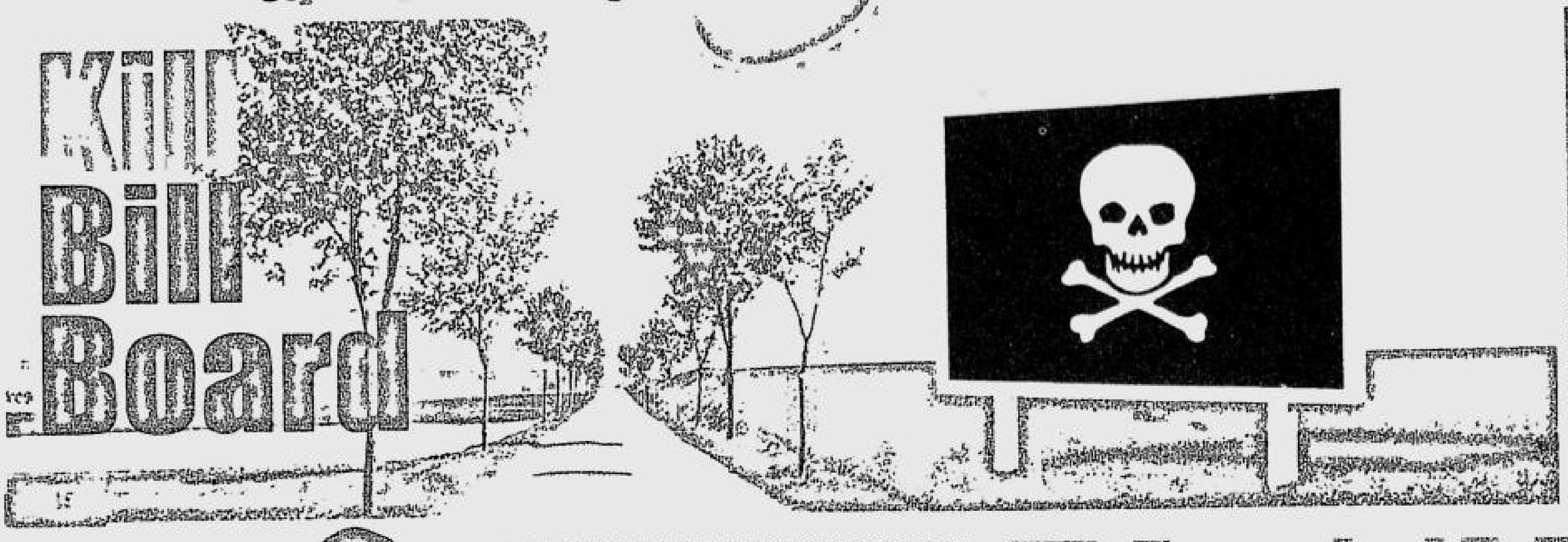
Kill Bill Board



Heed the writing on the wall and bring back the sky!

OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

THERE WAS DEFINITELY SOMETHING strange, but oddly beautiful in the skyscape that day.

I was driving along the highway, and for once, the blueness of the sky seemed to open up to me in the horizon. What was so different about that morning, I asked myself, wondering if I had absentmindedly taken a double dose of caffeine in my cup of joe. I realized thereafter that there were giant things that were physically absent, taken down, and subsequently proving that they should never have been there in the first place. The ubiquitous billboards that have blighted the metropolis.

See, it was the first time I had hit the road since the super Typhoon "Milenyo" ravaged Luzon. It had to take Mother Nature's wrath to make the public realize that those billboards were not only hideous, but are also freaking dangerous. They distract motorists, they close out the blue sky, and when winds over 210 kph blow, they happen to fall on people. Apparently, ugliness can kill

The writing on the wall

Sometime ago, we ran an editorial in Super about Manila's ever evolving uglification process, largely due to those maddening billboards that are not just erected anymore in open spaces and on top of buildings, but in every nook and cranny, post and inch of space on columns [illegible] posts, overpasses and bridges. Even our [illegible] become moving advertisements! [illegible] surprised these advertisers haven't thought of [illegible] traffic cops as advertising channels yet.

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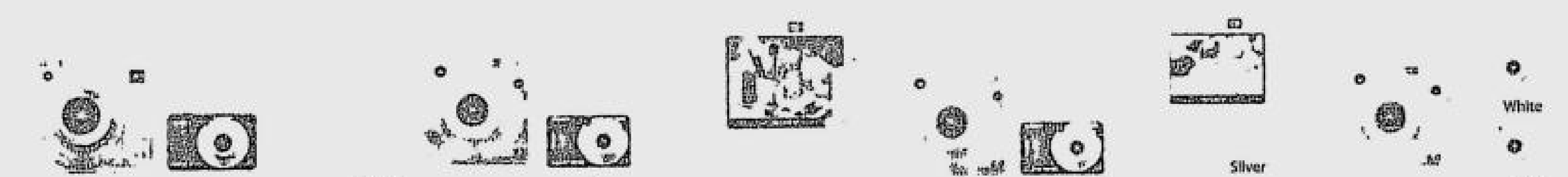
fashion
in focus with
DSC



24mos. DSC-W100 Before: Php 30,999 Now:
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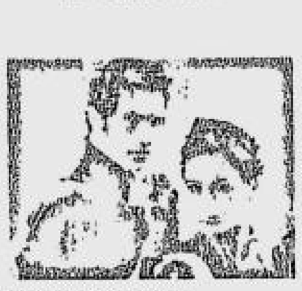
Without High Sensitivity

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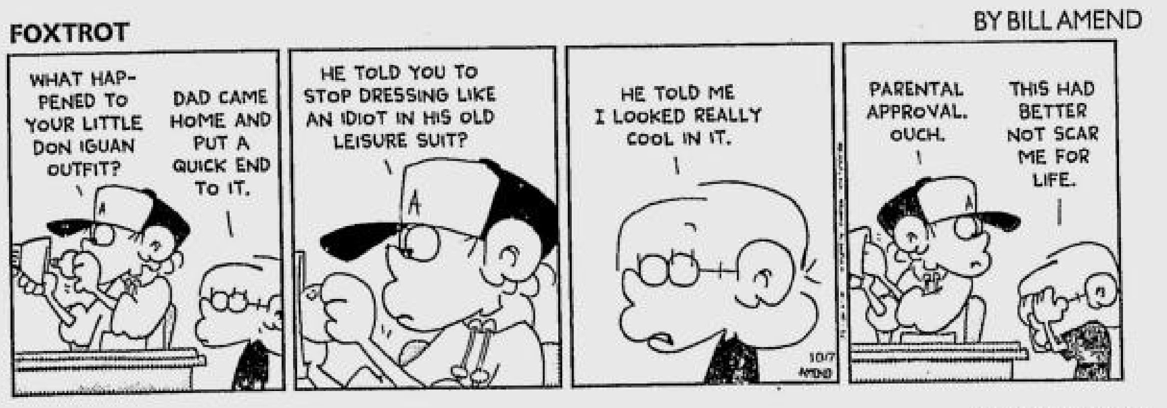
RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

ComicRelief

e-mail feedback at arts@inquirer.com.ph

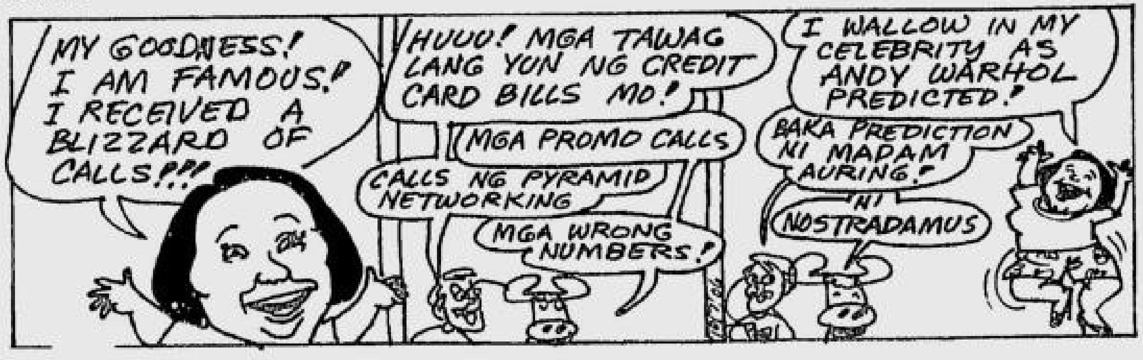
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR LITTLE DON IGUAN OUTFIT?
DAD CAME HOME AND PUT A QUICK END TO IT.
HE TOLD YOU TO STOP DRESSING LIKE AN IDIOT IN HIS OLD LEISURE SUIT?
HE TOLD ME I LOOKED REALLY COOL IN IT.
10/7 AMEND
PARENTAL APPROVAL. OUCH.
THIS HAD BETTER NOT SCAR ME FOR LIFE.

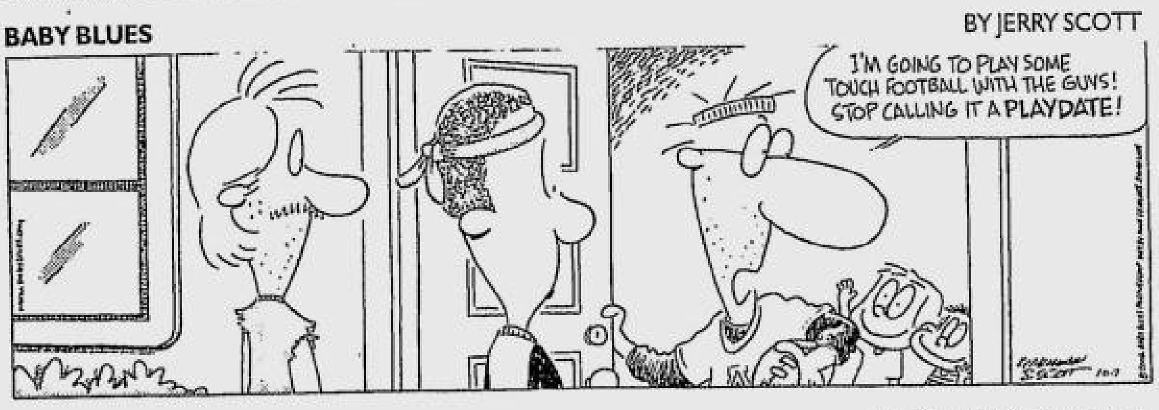
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MY GOODNESS! I AM FAMOUS! I RECEIVED A BLIZZARD OF CALLS!!!
HUUU! MGA TAWAG LANG YUN NG CREDIT CARD BILLS MO!
MGA PROMO CALLS
CALLS NG PYRAMID NETWORKING
MGA WRONG NUMBERS!
I WALLOW IN MY CELEBRITY AS ANDY WARHOL PREDICTED!
BAKA PREDICTION NI MADAM AURING!
NI NOSTRADAMUS

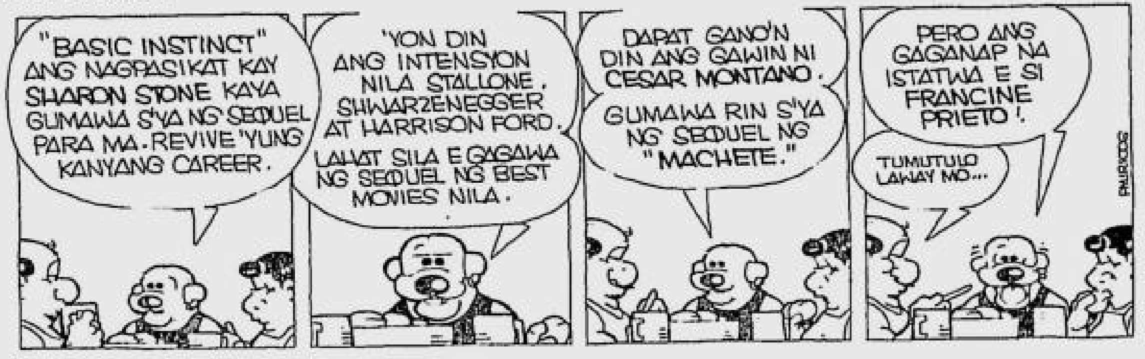
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


I'M GOING TO PLAY SOME TOUCH FOOTBALL WITH THE GUYS! STOP CALLING IT A PLAYDATE!

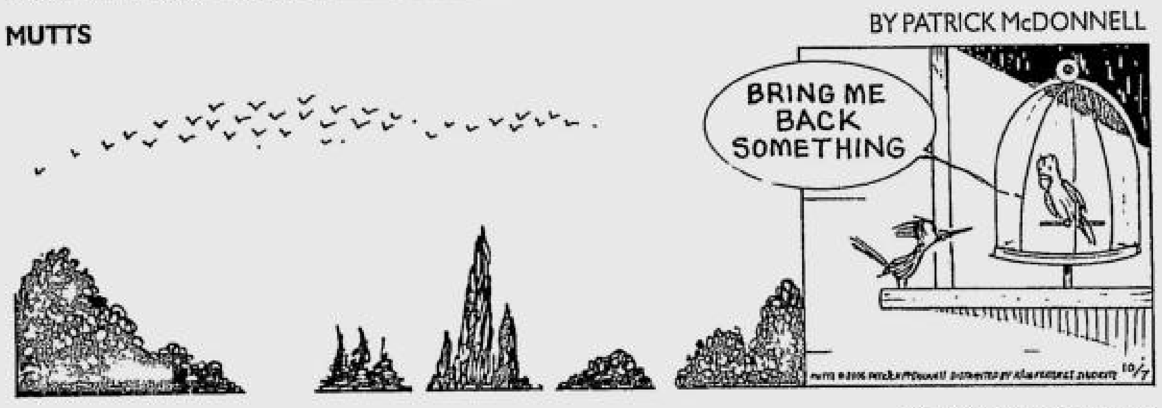
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


"BASIC INSTINCT" ANG NAGPASIKAT KAY SHARON STONE KAYA GUMAWA S'YA NG SEQUEL PARA MA-REVIVE 'YUNG KANYANG CAREER.
'YON DIN ANG INTENSYON NILA STALLONE, SHWARZENEGGER AT HARRISON FORD.
LAHAT SILA E GAGAWA NG SEQUEL NG BEST MOVIES NILA.
DAPAT GANO'N DIN ANG GAWIN NI CESAR MONTANO.
GUMAWA RIN S'YA NG SEQUEL NG "MACHETE."
PERO ANG GAGANAP NA ISTATWA E SI FRANCINE PRIETO!
TUMUTULO LAWAY MO...

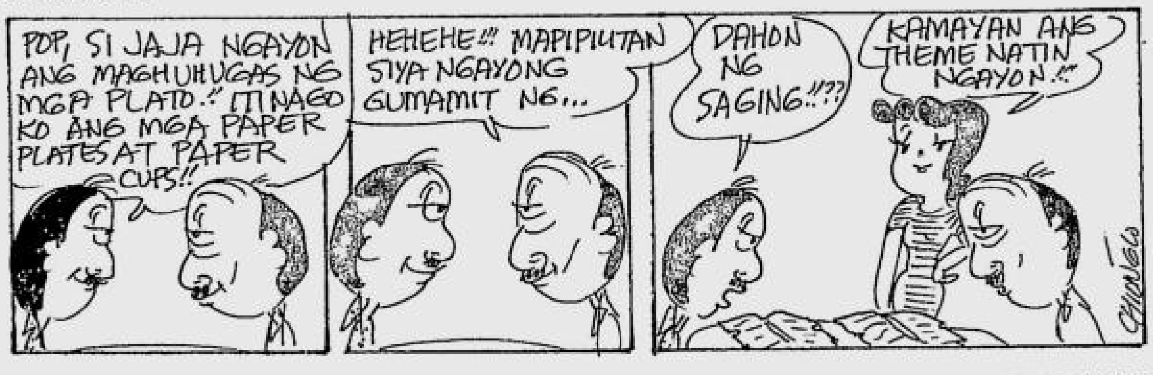
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


BRING ME BACK SOMETHING

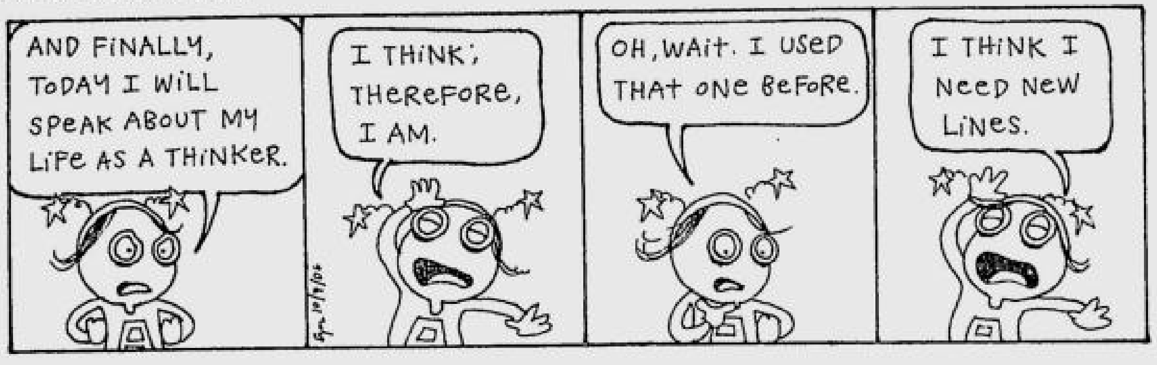
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


POP, SI JAJA NGAYON ANG MAGHUHUGAS NG MGA PLATO..!" ITINAGO KO ANG MGA PAPER PLATES AT PAPER CUPS!!
HEHEHE!!! MAPIPILITAN SIYA NGAYONG GUMAMIT NG...
DAHON NG SAGING!!??
KAMAYAN ANG THEME NATIN NGAYON!!"
CHIONGLO

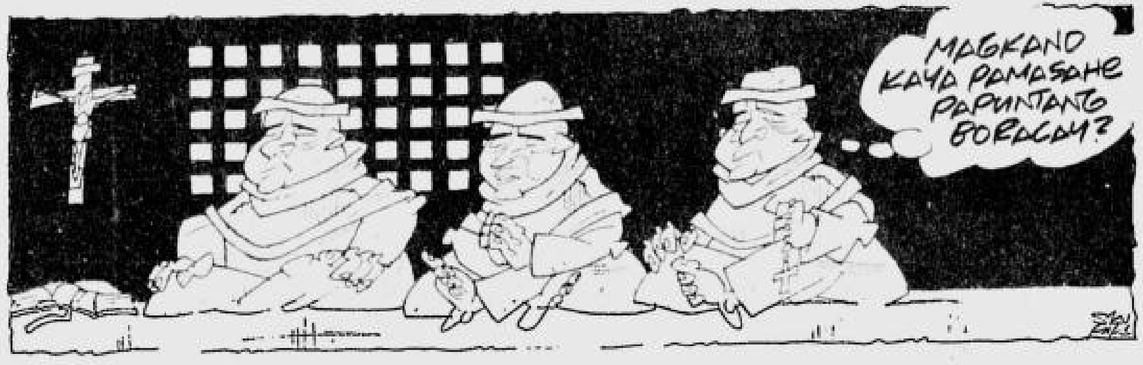
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


AND FINALLY, TODAY I WILL SPEAK ABOUT MY LIFE AS A THINKER.
I THINK; THEREFORE, I AM.
OH, WAIT. I USED THAT ONE BEFORE.
I THINK I NEED NEW LINES.

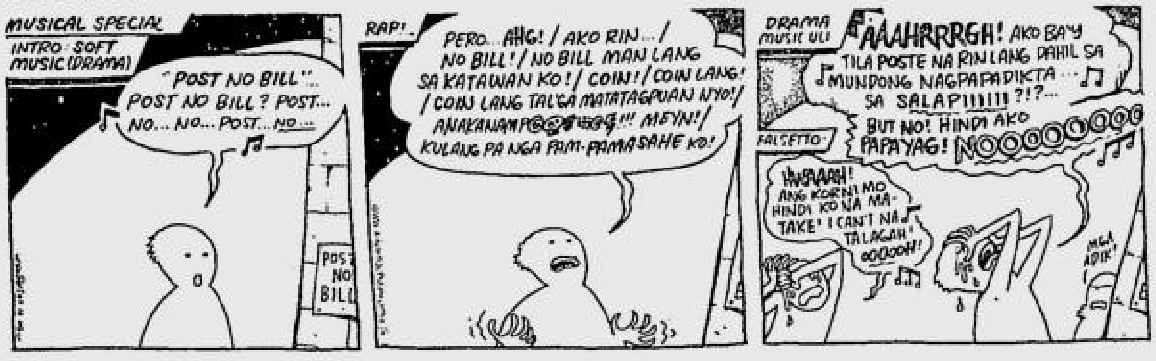
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


MAGKANO KAYA PAMASAHE PAPUNTANG BORACAY?

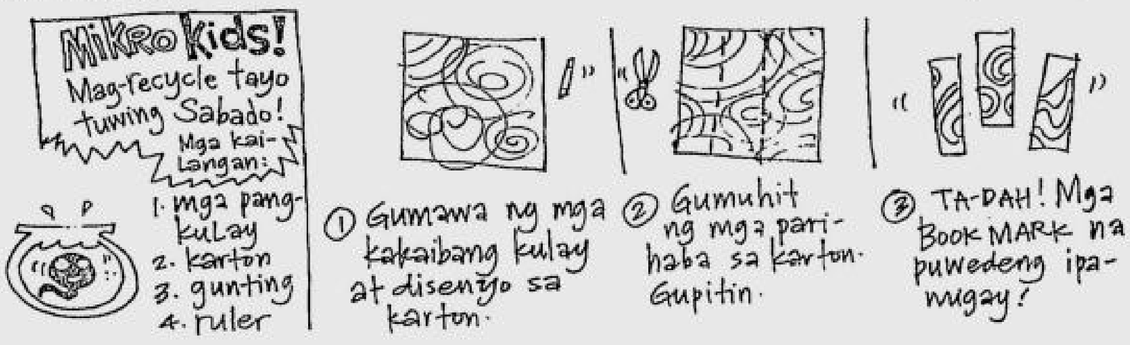
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


MUSICAL SPECIAL
INTRO: SOFT MUSIC (DRAMA)
"POST NO BILL"... POST NO BILL? POST... NO... NO... POST... NO...
POST NO BILL
RAP!
PERO... AHG! / AKO RIN... / NO BILL! / NO BILL MAN LANG SA KATAWAN KO! / COIN! / COIN LANG! / COIN LANG TAL'GA MATATAGPUAN NYO! / ANAKANAMPOOOTEEG!!! MEYN! / KULANG PA NGA PAM-PAMASAHE KO!
DRAMA MUSIC ULI
AAAHRRRGH! AKO BA'Y TILA POSTE NA RIN LANG DAHIL SA MUNDONG NAGPAPADIKTA... SA SALAPI!!!!!! ?!?...
BUT NO! HINDI AKO PAPAYAG! NOOOOOOOOO
FALSETTO
HWAAAH! ANG KORNI MO HINDI KO NA MA-TAKE! I CAN'T NA TALAGAH! OOOOH!
MGA ADIK!

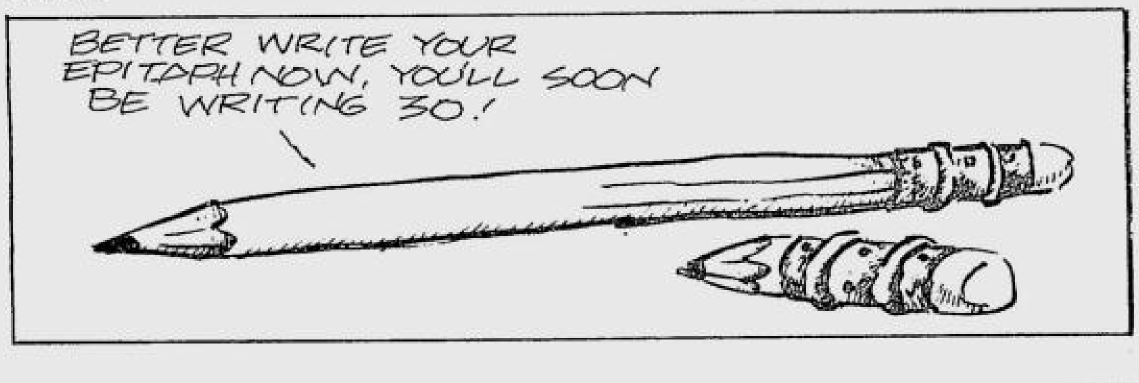
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MiKRO Kids!
Mag-recycle tayo tuwing Sabado!
Mga kailangan:
1. mga pangkulay
2. karton
3. gunting
4. ruler
① Gumawa ng mga kakaibang kulay at disenyo sa karton.
② Gumuhit ng mga parihaba sa karton. Gupitin.
③ TA-DAH! Mga BookMARK na puwedeng ipamigay!

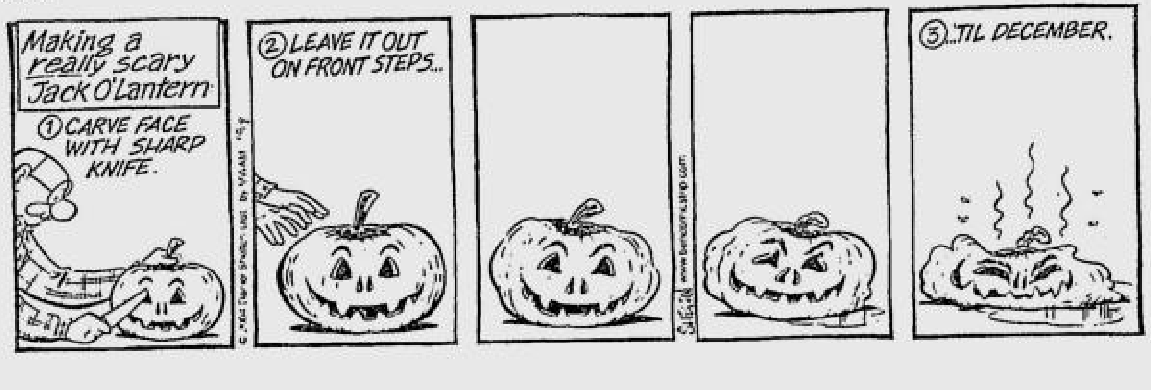
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


BETTER WRITE YOUR EPITAPH NOW, YOU'LL SOON BE WRITING 30!

BEN

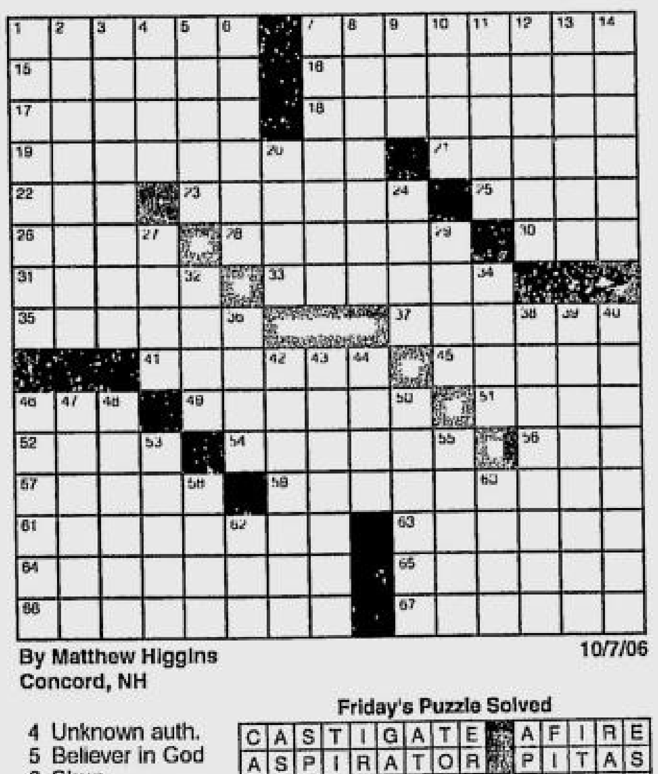
BY DANIEL SHELTON


Making a really scary Jack O'Lantern
① CARVE FACE WITH SHARP KNIFE.
② LEAVE IT OUT ON FRONT STEPS...
③ ...TIL DECEMBER.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Roofed passageway
7 Ghost costume feature
15 Noblemen like Macbeth
16 Holy smoke!
17 Valiant
18 Carves
19 Usurer
21 Lifeless
22 Horror film street
23 Became stiff
25 Medicinal quantity
26 Drove a nail obliquely
28 Suitors
30 Ready or __...
31 Ice house
33 Sainted founder of Scholasticism
35 Of the gall bladder
37 Casino employee
41 One and one, side-by-side
45 Photographer Arbus
46 Qty.
49 __ of the guard
51 Stocking shade
52 Cutting remark
54 Ate the evening meal
56 __ Jose
57 Honker
59 Crackling
61 Strip
63 Exact satisfaction for
64 Reworks old material
65 Almost a ringer
66 Wardrobe assistants
67 Time wasters

DOWN
1 Like Olympics competitors
2 Study of matter flow and deformation
3 Sweet chewy candles
4 Unknown auth.
5 Believer in God
6 Shun
7 "Self-Reliance" author
8 Bronx nine
9 Part of the U.K.
10 Last name in spydom
11 Man who played Chan
12 Continue to exist
13 Greatly
14 Sonnet part
20 Small Celebes buffalo
24 Scot of a famous case
27 Overplay the TLC
29 Sliding ride
32 Unctuous
34 Primary
36 Soccer pair?
38 City on Lake Geneva
39 Imperil
40 Types in data, again
42 Record of an expense
43 Female ruler
44 Scruff
46 Laughably foolish
47 Bearing
48 Medicinal lozenge
50 Katmandu language
53 Gaucho's devices
55 Plunged downward
58 Sleep restlessly
60 Bulsh green
62 Definite article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By Matthew Higgins
Concord, NH

10/7/06

Friday's Puzzle Solved

C	A	S	T	I	G	A	T	E		A	F	I	R	E
A	S	P	I	R	A	T	O	R		P	I	T	A	S
T	H	E	D	E	F	E	N	S	E	R	E	S	T	S
H	E	D	Y		F	A	T	T	Y		S	M	E	E
				M	E	M	O		E	N	T	E	R	S
A	M	O	C	O				A	S	E	A			
B	O	W	A	N	D	A	R	R	O	W		A	D	A
C	A	N	Y	O	U	H	E	A	R	M	E	N	O	W
S	T	S		C	R	E	A	T	E	A	S	T	I	R
			S	L	A	M				T	E	E	N	Y
H	E	M	P	E	N		E	T	C	H				
A	X	E	L		T	A	T	E	R		S	L	O	B
S	T	R	I	K	E	T	H	R	E	E	C	A	L	L
T	R	I	C	E		M	A	C	A	D	A	M	I	A
O	A	T	E	N		O	N	E	M	O	M	E	N	T

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10/7/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're committed to high ideals. You want to do the right thing. You're focused, strong-minded and very loyal. But you can also be rebellious. You will always fight for the underdog and challenge what you think is unjust. You have the power to charm others. You need to give yourself some downtime this year to learn something very important.

Birthdate of: Shawn Ashmore, actor; Bishop Desmond Tutu, Nobel Peace Prize winner/activist; Toni Braxton, singer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): With the Moon still in your sign, you're unusually aggressive today. You'll definitely go after whatever you want. (And you won't take no for an answer!)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Try to find some time to be by yourself today. You need to contemplate your navel. A little rest and relaxation will do you good.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Conversations with friends, especially a female friend, will be significant today. Perhaps somebody needs to confide in you? Or perhaps you want to confide in someone?

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): It's likely that you'll do something (yesterday or today) that calls attention to yourself. Increased activity at home keeps you busy now. Be patient with family members.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You have a strong desire to get away from it all. You want to do something different. You want adventure and excitement! Go someplace you've never been to before. Break your routine.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Your concerns for someone else are strong right now. You're very aware of the responsibilities that you have for others. (This is good.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Yesterday and today, it feels like others are opposing your ideas. (Grrr.) This bothers you because you like to get along with everyone. (Relax—it's just the Full Moon creating tension.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is a good day to wrap up loose details and putter around home or your job. You might get involved with small pets. Take care of sensible practicalities.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is a good day to make long-range plans with publishing, higher education, travel or dealing with foreign countries. You're in a very practical frame of mind.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Now is the time to tackle home repairs. You want to make practical improvements at home or even within your family environment. And you want these results to last for a long time.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is a good day to seek advice from someone older or more experienced, perhaps even someone who is an expert in his or her field. You have some serious thinking to do about something.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You feel very sensible about money matters today. If you buy something, you want it to be practical and long-lasting.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

by Dave Green

		3	6	7				
	6				1	8	7	
	8							9
	1							7
5								2
9							8	
2							1	
	4	6	5				2	
				9	4	3		

Difficulty Level ★★★★

10/07

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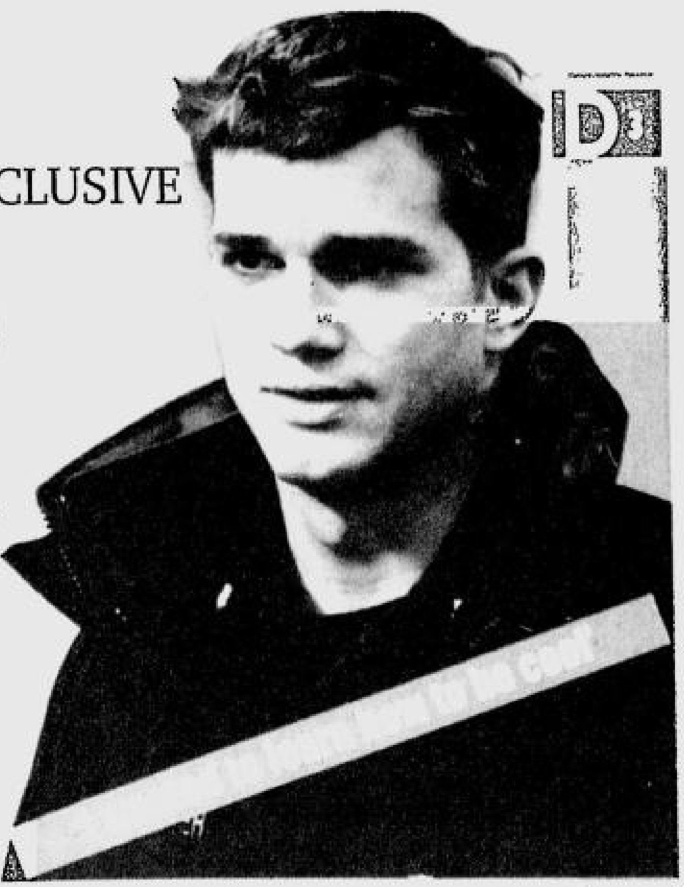
HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

1	6	3	7	4	8	2	5	9
8	7	2	9	1	5	4	6	3
9	4	5	6	3	2	7	1	8
4	3	1	2	6	9	5	8	7
2	9	7	5	8	4	6	3	1
5	8	6	3	7	1	9	2	4
6	2	8	1	9	7	3	4	5
7	5	4	8	2	3	1	9	6
3	1	9	4	5	6	8	7	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★



SCENES FROM "THE GUARDIAN." This powerful film is a must-watch.

The talented Mr. Kutcher

By Elaine Lipworth

IN THE TOUGHEST ROLE OF HIS CAREER, Ashton Kutcher stars as Jake Fischer, a young, arrogant swimmer who joins the elite American Coast Guard, convinced that he has what it takes to be the best. Physically, there is no doubt that Fischer is equipped to do the job, but is he equipped emotionally? Highly competitive, he quickly proves that he can beat all the other students who are training to be rescue swimmers. But he fails to impress the man who really matters: Ben Randall, (Kevin Costner) a legendary swimmer who has reluctantly moved from active service to a post as chief trainer at the elite 'A School,' where he encounters Jake Fischer. The film focuses on the fiery relationship between the two swimmers.

Directed by Andrew Davis, "The Guardian" provides a unique insight into America's courageous rescue swimmers.

Ashton Kutcher, 28, grew up in Iowa on a farm with his family. He had big dreams of becoming an actor. At the University of Iowa, he studied biochemical engineering but left school to pursue modeling. In 1998, he landed the role of Michael Kelso in the hit TV show, That '70s Show. He certainly has gone a long way since then. Ashton is the co-creator and producer of the hit MTV series Punk'd and has starred in a variety of hit films (Guess Who, The Butterfly Effect, Cheaper By The Dozen, Just Married and A Lot Like Love). He also provides the voice of Eliiot, in the new animated film Open Season. Ashton is married to actress Demi Moore.

Can you describe your character?

I play Jake Fischer, a very insecure guy who compensates by appearing as overconfident, but inside he really wants help and has something that's happened in his life that is troubling him. He wants to become a top rescue swimmer and does not really want help from anyone. He believes that he can do it all himself. But he realizes eventually that he needs to ask for help.

What's his relationship like with Kevin Costner's character?

Kevin becomes a father figure, a mentor for my character, but at the start they are in conflict and do not get on at all.

What was the appeal of this role?

I really wanted to do an action film and "The Guardian" was a complete departure from anything I had done before. I was also looking for the chance to work with actors who I could learn from, who I could look up to. It was great for me to get the chance of working with Kevin Costner. I have always admired him and I've been a big fan. I learned so much from him. Also it was great to do a film about the Coast Guard, because their story has not really been told before and they do such an amazing job. It was a gift to me to spend time with these individuals and get to know them as people."

How did you prepare for this role?

You cannot really fully prepare for a role like this, it was very challenging. I went through the script and found out I had to hold my breath for three minutes in one scene, I would have to tow somebody through the rough water and I would probably have to do it 20 times. But when it came to filming, the pain and discomfort was not a bad thing, because it made it easier for the character to seem real. You are wet and you are very cold all the time, so you don't need to act it, it's one less thing to think about. The swimming scenes were tough but that made the scenes where we were not wet and cold really nice, a great relief.

Is it true that you could not swim before taking this role?

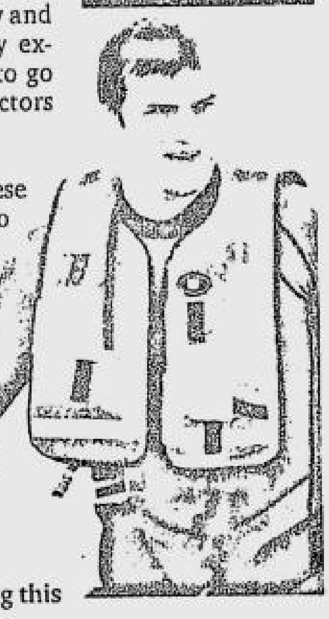
I could barely swim. I just don't like the water much. I do not like taking a bath. As a kid growing up in Iowa, I learned to swim, but it was not real swimming. I could get in the water and just about make it to the other side of the pool. I was trudging through the water. that's very different from crossing the pool in eight strong, smooth strokes. Swimming the way I learned for this film is about being efficient with your oxygen and swimming in comparable times to Olympic swimmers. That's the level I had to achieve.

How much training did you do?

I trained for eight months, before we even started filming. I couldn't just be good, I had to look like I was the best of the group. I made sure I could do everything the Coast Guard swimmers have to do to get through the program. When I realized I would be working with Olympic swimmers, I said to the director, 'You can't do that to me.' So I started swimming every morning in a lap pool and swam from one end of the pool to the other and then back. It took me forever and I was exhausted. I had to build up my speed every day. Then I started swimming in the ocean, which was a completely different thing. I was throwing up constantly and I would keep going. It was physically exhausting. I kept on going. Then I had to go through boot camp with the other actors who were in the film.

What was the boot camp like?

It was really tough. I had to ask these Olympic swimmers I was training with, to go slow, to take a notch off their speed. A couple of times I said 'Guys I'm supposed to win this race.' But they helped me a lot and showed me how to swim better. I have never been yelled at so much in my life, except perhaps by my parents. We often had to do 50 push-ups. And the Coast Guard guys running the training program did them with us, so I have great respect for them.



Had you done anything approaching this kind of training before?

The hard physical work reminded me of when I was younger in Iowa, doing the hard core blue collar jobs I did before becoming an actor, waking up every morning with a sore back. We didn't have much money growing up and I did a lot of labor intensive work—I was a mason, I baled hay for a while, I was a roofer, I swept cereal dust in a factory and I worked in a butcher's shop. I washed dishes in a kitchen. In those jobs, where you are on your feet all day long, you are a mule and you are using your physical attributes to earn your money. You wake up the next morning after using a jackhammer all day and your muscles and your back hurt. The training and the swimming when we were filming really took me back to those days, it was so hard.

What diet did you eat during training?

I had a very specific diet. I had to have a lot of supplemental protein drinks. I was burning so much that I had to consume excessive amounts of carbohydrates just to keep my weight up.

How tough was the actual filming?

The filming was very hard, it was so cold and difficult. It is hard to describe how cold you get. When you are in water 10 hours a day, your body temperature slowly starts to drop. Afterwards, when you get out of the tank and you're shivering, you do everything you can just to get warm again, to get your core temperature up. They put you in a hot room and cover you with blankets.

Would you be able to rescue someone after all your training?

I would save someone's life if I could now. If I saw someone in distress, I would try my best to help, I would do everything I could to rescue someone, there's no question about that. But would I want to do it for a job every day? No. These guys go out and risk their lives and I don't know how they do it.

Did you have an inspiration for the film in terms of other action stars?

Yes, I am not particularly cool and I wanted to learn how to be cool, so I studied Steve McQueen for this role. He is still the coolest and there is no one better at what he did. So I watched his films and read a load of books about him. I wanted to discover how he worked and how he thought. And I wanted to learn how to be cool.

What is your approach to acting at this point?

I read somewhere that it is not what you achieve in life, it is what you overcome. I think that is true. There is a value in having obstacles put in your way. There is a value in reaching for the next rung on the ladder. And my desire is to do my best and make sure each role is the best work I have ever done. You learn from each experience and that is my approach."

"The Guardian," distributed by Buena Vista International through Columbia Pictures, opens on Oct. 11 in theaters nationwide.

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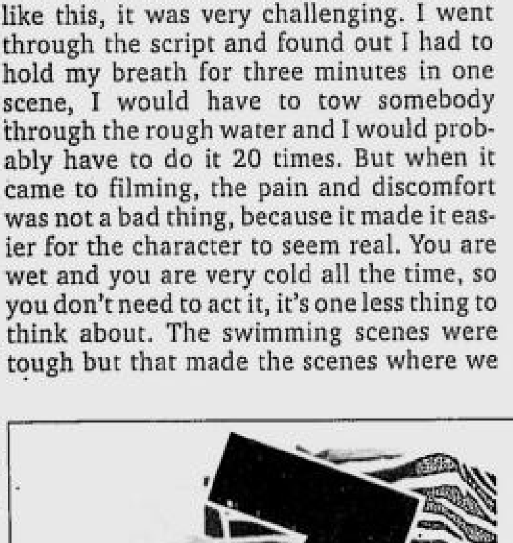
Bazaar buzz



READY, GET SET, SHOP.

Venture 7 will hold its first bazaar this year on Oct. 8, Sunday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel Intercontinental Manila. This much-awaited bazaar will feature many young entrepreneurs and unique items from all over the world.

Get ready to scout, shop and splurge.

And if one day isn't enough for you, Venture 7's second bazaar will be on Dec. 3, also at the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel Intercontinental Manila.

The race is on

TEN TEAMS WERE CHOSEN FROM MORE than 2,000 applicants. Andrew and Syeon, Zabrina and Joe Jer, Jacqueline and Aubrey, Ernie and Jeena, Laura and Andy, Mardy and Marsio, Pras hant and Sahl, Sahran and Howard, Francesca and Sandy and Melody and Sharon—who will make it first to the finish line? And who will be eliminated first?

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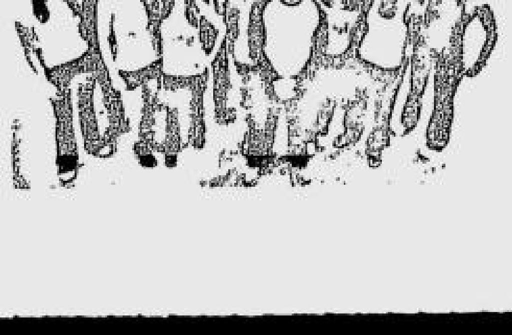

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Just how exactly can two different products from Lifestyles do such a wonder? How do products fit together to form a powerful mix that can yield exceptional results for your body's functions?

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intra®: An Ounce a Day, A World of Difference

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nutria®: The Great Protector

Lifestyles'nutria® is a powerful antioxidant supplement that helps your body defend itself against toxins and pollutants of modern life. It contains green tea extracts, blue berry extract, a very special type of selenium called Seleno Excell™ and phytonutrients from 20 different sources of fruits and vegetable that support your immune system and promote overall vitality and health. Daily use of nutria® offers unparalleled protection against free radicals for a healthy body cells.

By using these amazing products of Lifestyles, you can ensure that your body systems are carefully maintained and optimal health achieved. intra® has the botanicals to support and strengthen your major body systems while nutria® has the most potent antioxidant properties to combat cell damage therefore ensuring body support. With these two products working together, synergistically, you can be assured of a healthier life in this unhealthy world.

Consistently, Lifestyles proves that it is the respectable choice and the solution when it comes to health and proper nutrition. Know more on how you can experience Lifestyles' Synergistic Effect as it formally launches nutria® on October 21 in La Salle Greenhills, Metro Manila and October 22 in Cebu Waterfront, Lahug, Cebu City with special guests Mr. Ralph Hansen, President of Lifestyles and Mr. Paul Kramer, R.N.C.P. Vice President Product Research & Development. Mr. Kramer has 25 years of experience in nutritional product development, and is the author of the best-selling book, Fighting Body Pollution, which is now printed in eight languages worldwide.

Contact Lifestyles Philippines at (02) 725-9098 or (0920) 9522560 or visit www.lifestyles.net for more details on its all-natural health formulations.

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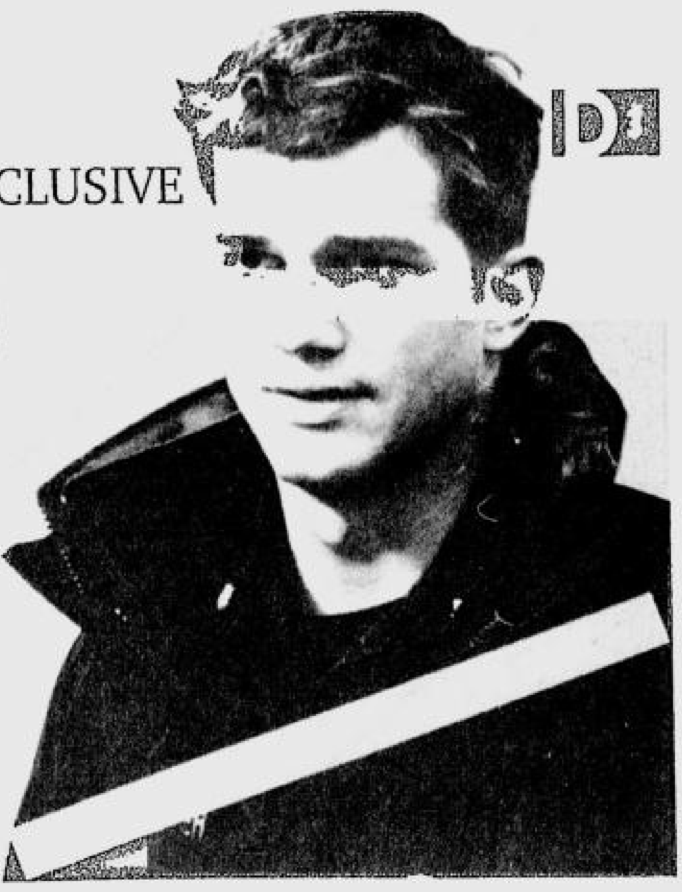

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Can you describe your character?

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What was the boot camp like?

It was [illegible] to gh [illegible] Olympic sw [illegible] to slow, to t [illegible] A couple of tir.. [illegible] posed to w [illegible] helped me [illegible] how to sw [illegible] been yelled [illegible] except perhap [illegible] We ofter [illegible] And the [illegible] ning the trai [illegible] them with [illegible] spee' for the [illegible]

Had you done anything approaching this kind of training before?

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What diet did you eat during training?

I had a very specific diet. I had to ha [illegible] of supplemental protein dr [illegible] I w [illegible] bu so much that I had to [illegible] ume [illegible] amounts of carbohydra [illegible] weight up.

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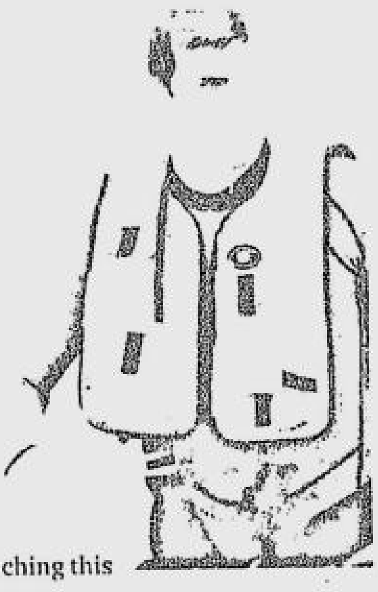

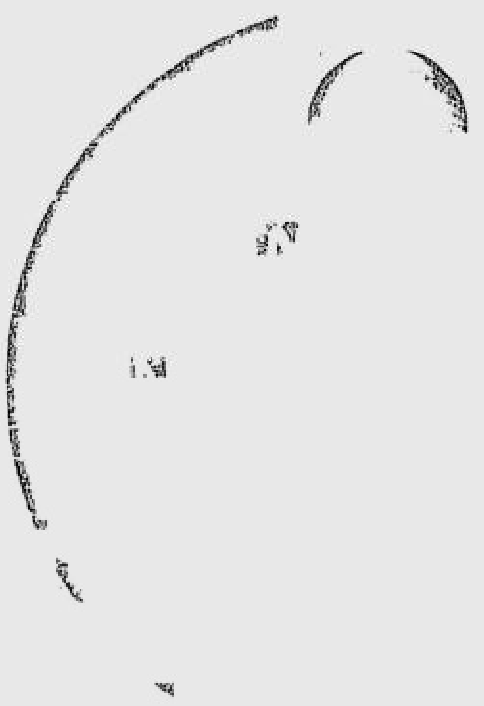

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Synergistic Effect [illegible] nutria® [illegible] President Product Research & [illegible] ment. Mr. Kramer has 25 years of experience in nutritional product development, and is the author of the [illegible] selling book, Fighting Body Pollution, which is now printed in eight languages worldwide.

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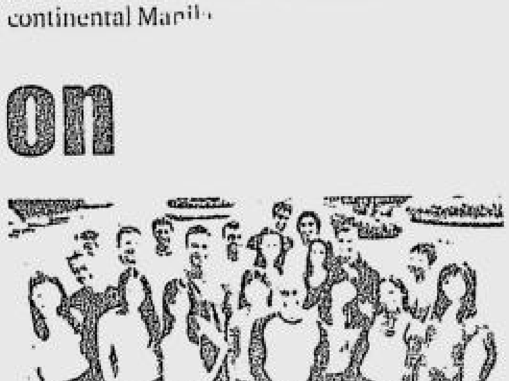
Bazaar buzz

READY, GET SET, SHOP

Venture [illegible] nor [illegible] year on Oct. [illegible] Sunday [illegible] p.m. at the Grand Ballroom of the I tercontinental Manila. This much [illegible] bazaar will feature many young [illegible] trepreneurs and unique items from [illegible] the world.

Get ready to scout, shop and splurge [illegible] And if one day isn't enough for you [illegible] ture 7's second bazaar will be on De [illegible] so at the Grand Ballroom of the Hot [illegible] continental Manila.

The race is on



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Find out on Nov. 9, Thursday, 9 p.m., when The Amazing Race Asia begins exclusively on AXN.

RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

Spinning with the stars

Paolo R. Reyes
Janine Cuenca-Dario

AGAINST A BLINDING STREAM OF strobe lights, Embassy becomes the breeding ground for a new batch of superstar iDJs. Using the new iTunes-capable Moto ROKR handset, celebrity spinners are set to get their hands dirty in the coming weeks for the iDJ2 Party Series. Watch them crank up the volume and slug it out in a fun and friendly competition.

Following the "Media Mixology" night (where RJ Ledesma of Manual took home the top prize, defeating fellow media members such as Super! 's own Tals Diaz), a select roster of models, TV personalities, and party scene luminaries will lord over the Super Club's decks. For 20 minutes, each will get a chance to show off eclectic musical styles in the hope of becoming the night's big winner.

Tonight at 10 p.m., popular "Nex-Gen" partygoers such as Manika Yujuico and Michelle Pamintuan battle it out with their funk-fueled playlists. Next Saturday, Oct. 14, it's "Fashion Mix-Match" featuring the style-savvy line-up of Tessa Dragon, Bubbles Paraiso, Charmaine Palermo, and Nicollete Belle. The iDJ2 search culminates on Oct. 21 with "Celebrity Spin," where you can catch the likes of Phoemela Barranda, Paolo Paraiso, Sam Oh, and Nancy Castiglione giving the turntables a try.

So get ready to reach for the sky, suck in the infectious euphoria, and cheer for your favorite celebrity iDJ! For details, visit www.eventscapemanila.com.

Other Super! 24/7 events:

Oct. 7, Saturday

Oktoberfest 2006 at Le Pavillon; Von Trapp Children: Live! at Mall of Asia; Moto iDJ2 "Nex-Gen" Party at Embassy Club; Level Up Games Party at 6Underground; Sitti Navarro at Captain's Bar; Spy at 70s Bistro; Kearny St. at Shang Streetscape; DJs Paolo Maralit & Cao Ocampo at Jill's; Lounge-O-Rama w/ Soundsgood DJs at Embassy Cuisine; Bringin' Back the Bounce at Mati; DJs Buddha & JD at Absinth; Salsa Night at Ricco-Renzo Café; Bacardi Bling w/ DJ McCoy at Vida Malate; House Groovin' at Mezze; Campusition Night at Mag:net Café; DJ Badboy Jeff at Temple; Wham Bam w/ DJ Bam at Government; DJs Scratchmark & Shorty at Prince of Jaipur; Drag-on Saturdays at Bed

Oct. 8, Sunday

German Film Festival at Shang Cineplex; Pelicula: Spanish Film Festival at Greenbelt 3 Cinemas; Diwali: Indian Food Festival at Queens; Awit: Ateneo Chamber Singers at Union Church, Makati; REP's The Boor & The Proposal at Onstage Greenbelt 1; No Borders CulTour Festival at Chateau 1771; LomoLove: Photo Exhibit at Black Soup Gallery, Cubao-X; Jazz Sunday Brunch at M Café; Trumpet's Joseph The Dreamer at SM Megamall Cinema 4

Oct. 9, Monday

Parokya ni Edgar at 70s Bistro; CanU DIGGIT? w/ DJs Red-I & Brandon Umali at Absinth; Enchanted Evenings w/ Concertino at Azzurro Linden Suites; I Don't Like Mondays! w/ DJ RO at Gweilos Makati; Diwali: Indian Food Festival at Queens; Eastwind Jazz Trio at Captain's Bar; Follies de Mwah at Club Mwah; Silk & Steel at Merk's

Oct. 10, Tuesday

I-ON NIGHT: Metrowear Fashion Series at The Loft (Rockwell); Itchyworms, Silent Sanctuary & Chilitees at 70s Bistro; Stand-Up Comedy at Coffee Bean (Paseo Center branch); Cuisine Royale w/ Manolet Dario at Embassy Cuisine; DJs Crash & Patrick G. at Temple; Sex & the City Ladies Night at Mezze; Piano Nights w/ Tito Duran at Azzurro Linden Suites; Sparkle w/ DJs Patch & Erwin Edralin at Absinth; Kickback Tuesdays at Manila DJ Club; Diwali: Indian Food Festival at Queens; Guarana at Café Havana Greenbelt

Oct. 11, Wednesday

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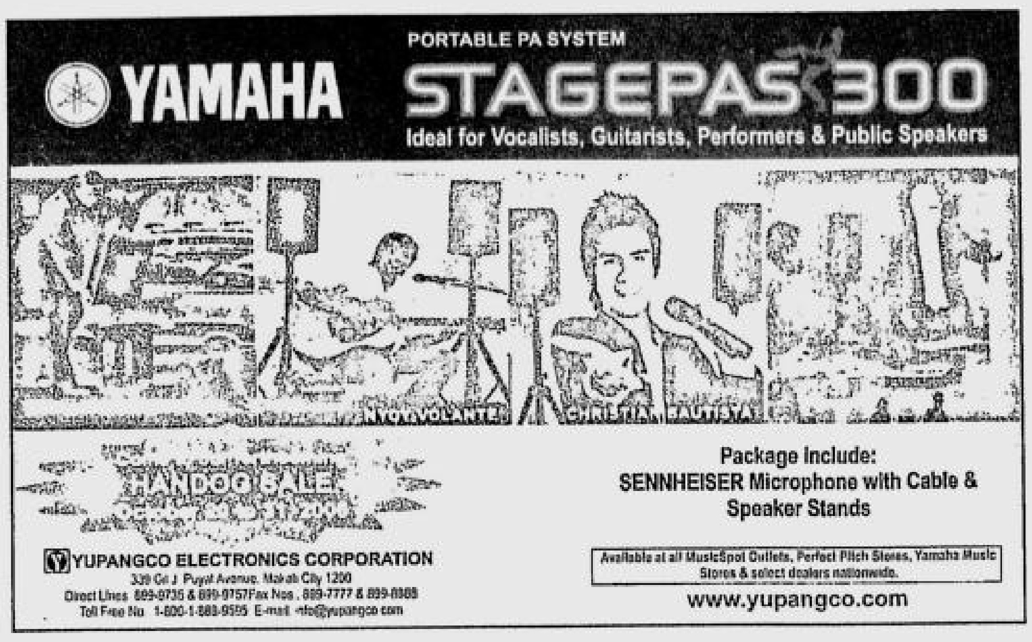
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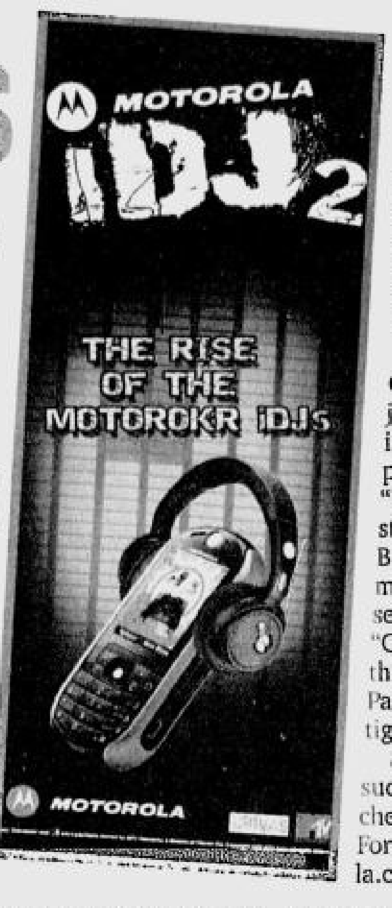

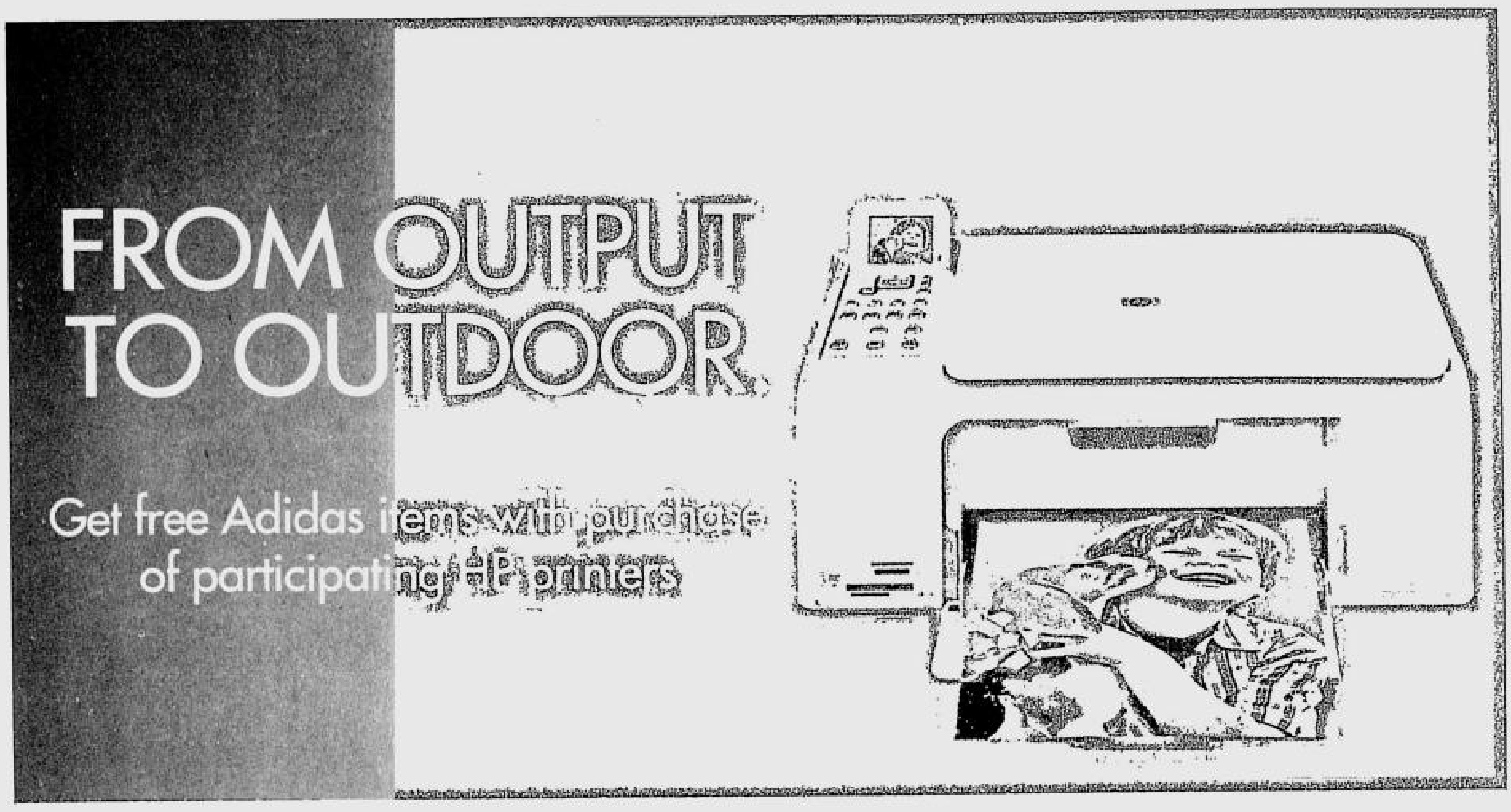
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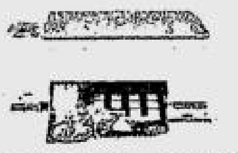
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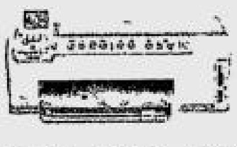
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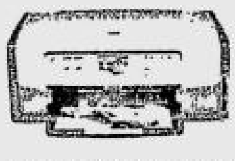
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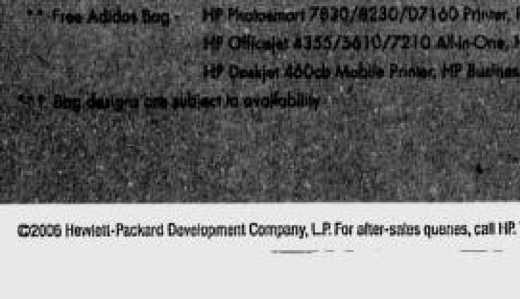

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Spinning with the stars

Paolo R. Reyes
Janine Cuenca-Dario

AGAINST A BLINDING STREAM OF strobe lights, Embassy becomes the breeding ground for a new batch of superstar iDJs. Using the new iTunes-capable Moto ROKR handset, celebrity spinners are set to get their hands dirty in the coming weeks for the iDJ2 Party Series. Watch them crank up the volume and slug it out in a fun and friendly competition.

Following the "Media Mixology" night (where RJ Ledesma of Manual took home the top prize, defeating fellow media members such as Super! 's own Tals Diaz), a select roster of models, TV personalities, and party scene luminaries will lord over the Super Club's decks. For 20 minutes, each will get a chance to show off eclectic musical styles in the hope of becoming the night's big winner.

Tonight at 10 p.m., popular "Nex-Gen" partygoers such as Manika Yujuico and Michelle Pamintuan battle it out with their funk-fueled playlists. Next Saturday, Oct. 14, it's "Fashion Mix-Match" featuring the style-savvy line-up of Tessa Dragon, Bubbles Paraiso, Charmaine Palermo, and Nicollete Belle. The iDJ2 search culminates on Oct. 21 with "Celebrity Spin," where you can catch the likes of Phoemela Barranda, Paolo Paraiso, Sam Oh, and Nancy Casiglione giving the turntables a try.

So get ready to reach for the sky, suck in the infectious euphoria, and cheer for your favorite celebrity iDJ! For details, visit www.eventscapemanila.com.

Other Super! 24/7 events:

Oct. 7, Saturday

Oktoberfest 2006 at Le Pavillon; Von Trapp Children: Live! at Mall of Asia; Moto iDJ2 "Nex-Gen" Party at Embassy Club; Level Up Games Party at 6Underground; Sitti Navarro at Captain's Bar; Spy at 70s Bistro; Kearny St. at Shang Streetscape; DJs Paolo Maralit & Cao Ocampo at Jill's; Lounge-O-Rama w/ Soundsgood DJs at Embassy Cuisine; Bringin' Back the Bounce at Mati; DJs Buddha & JD at Absinth; Salsa Night at Ricco-Renzo Café; Bacardi Bling w/ DJ McCoy at Vida Malate; House Groovin' at Mezze; Campusition Night at Magnet Café; DJ Badboy Jeff at Temple; Wham Bam w/ DJ Bam at Government; DJs Scratchmark & Shorty at Prince of Jaipur; Drag-on Saturdays at Bed

Oct. 8, Sunday

German Film Festival at Shang Cineplex; Pelicula: Spanish Film Festival at Greenbelt 3 Cinemas; Diwali: Indian Food Festival at Queens; Awit: Ateneo Chamber Singers at Union Church, Makati; REP's The Boor & The Proposal at Onstage Greenbelt 1; No Borders CulTour Festival at Chateau 1771; LomoLove: Photo Exhibit at Black Soup Gallery, Cubao-X; Jazz Sunday Brunch at M Café; Trumpet's Joseph The Dreamer at SM Megamall Cinema 4

Oct. 9, Monday

Parokya ni Edgar at 70s Bistro; CanU DIGGIT? w/ DJs Red-I & Brandon Umali at Absinth; Enchanted Evenings w/ Concertino at Azzurro Linden Suites; I Don't Like Mondays! w/ DJ RO at Gweilos Makati; Diwali: Indian Food Festival at Queens; Eastwind Jazz Trio at Captain's Bar; Follies de Mwah at Club Mwah; Silk & Steel at Merk's

Oct. 10, Tuesday

I-ON NIGHT. Metrowear Fashion Series at The Loft (Rockwell); Itchyworms, Silent Sanctuary & Chilitees at 70s Bistro; Stand-Up Comedy at Coffee Bean (Paseo Center branch); Cuisine Royale w/ Manolet Dario at Embassy Cuisine; DJs Crash & Patrick G. at Temple; Sex & the City Ladies Night at Mezze; Piano Nights w/ Tito Duran at Azzurro Linden Suites; Sparkle w/ DJs Patch & Erwin Edralin at Absinth; Kickback Tuesdays at Manila DJ Club; Diwali: Indian Food Festival at Queens; Guarana at Café Havana Greenbelt

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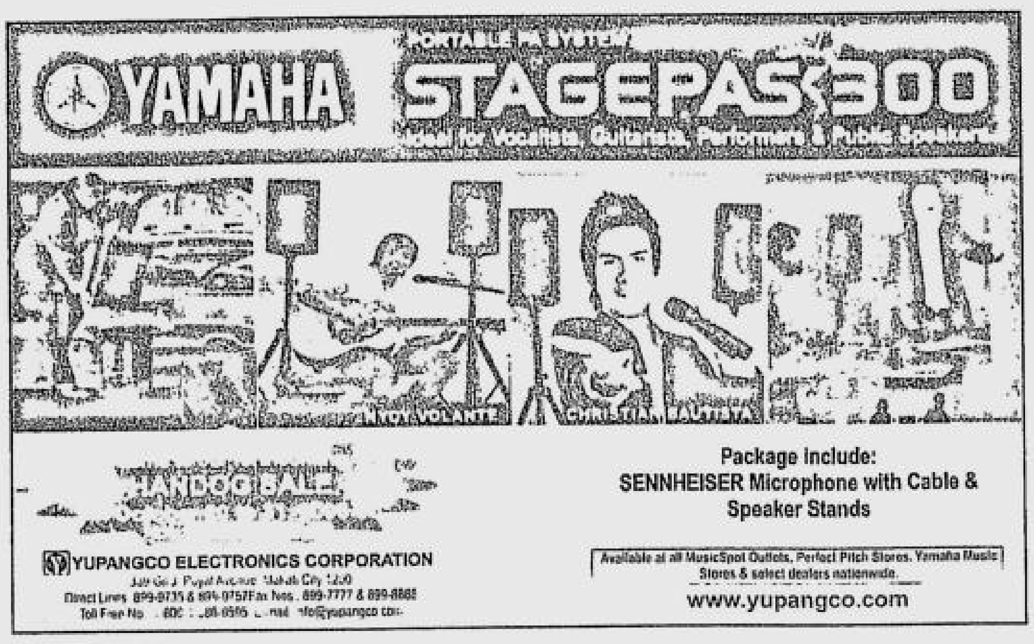
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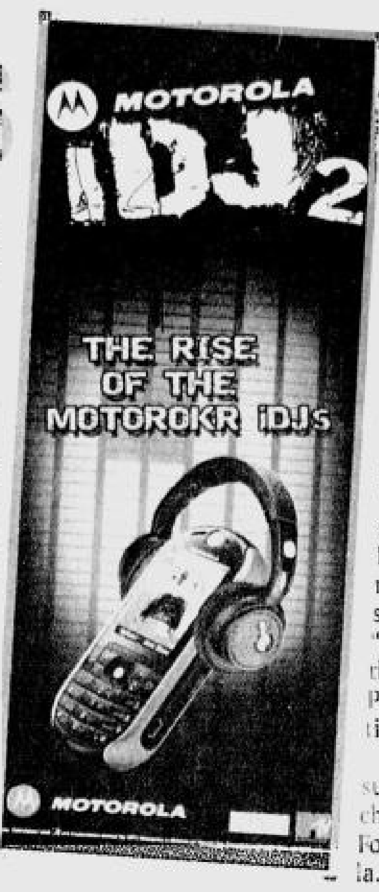

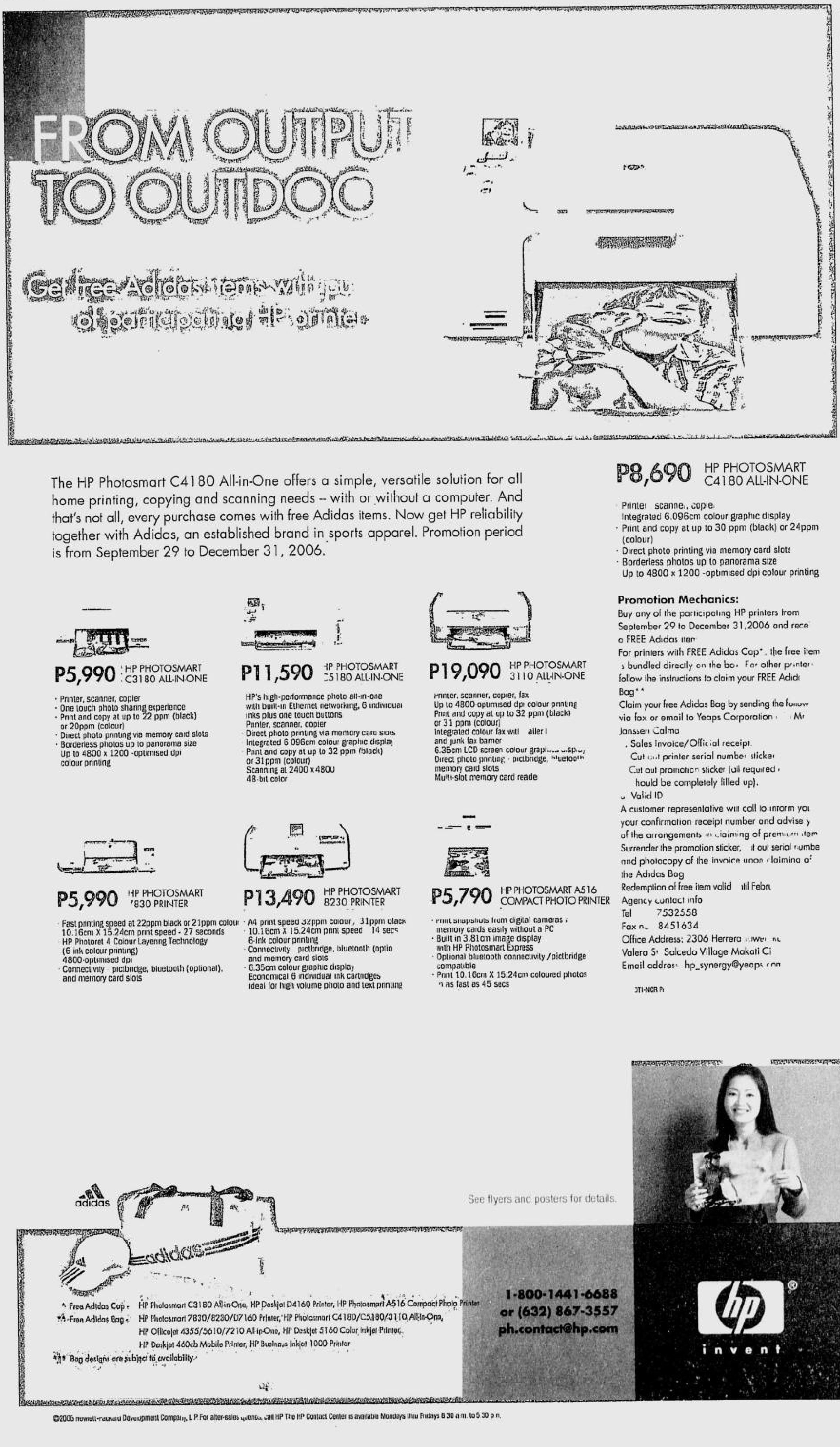

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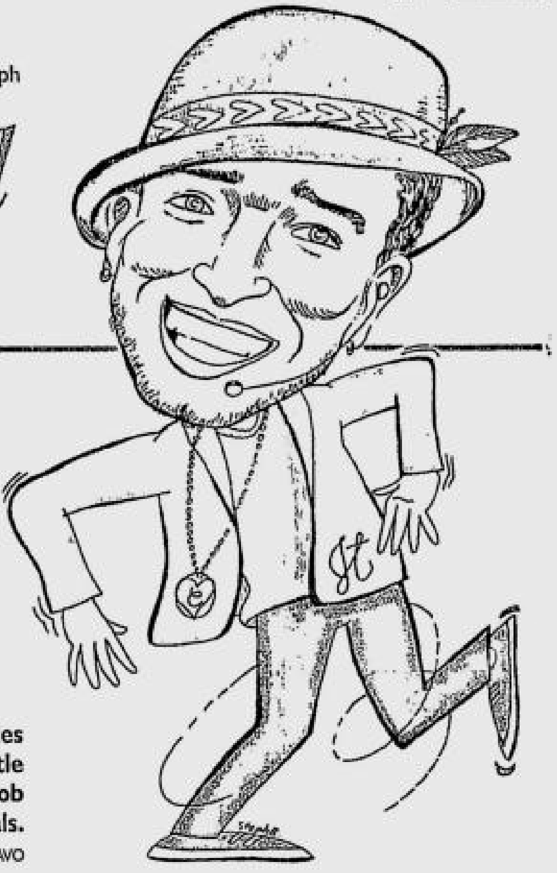

TIMBERLAKE. Trades in his teenybopper mantle for sensitive heartthrob credentials.

CARICATURE BY STEPH BRAVO

Groove over thematic gravity in Timberlake's latest album

By Rito P. Asilo

IN "FUTURESEX/ LOVESOUND," JUSTIN Timberlake's Billboard chart-topping follow-up to his 2002 debut solo album ("Justified"), the singer trades in his teenybopper mantle for sensitive heartthrob credentials.

But, while the effort is sure to jack up record sales, the singer's artistic ambition is nevertheless overwhelmed by hook-heavy singles that boast more of seething retro-funk energy than thematic gravity.

In the first three tracks alone—"Future-Sex/ LoveSound," "Sexy Ladies/ Let Me Talk to You," and the current No.1 single, "Sexyback"—the former boy band vocalist dishes sexual innuendoes as if constant reminders would lend him maturity and credibility in the eyes of critics who refuse to take him seriously. Alas, he accomplishes the opposite: You'd think his fans were insatiable sexual creatures.

Cathartic

He tries to please in the anthemic "Losing My Way"—a well-intentioned but too literal send-up of Michael Jackson's "Man in the Mirror"—a cautionary tale and a desperate man's plea for help ("Can anybody hear me?/ Coz I can't seem to hear myself.../ There's got to be a heaven out there to save me from this hell"). The song features the singer's technically faultless chest tones synergized further by soaring sentiments that crescendo into a cathartic, choral plea.

Don't get us wrong, you'll have fun listening to the album. Timberlake's well-produced 12-track recording has the performer stirring up some frisky, groove-heavy albeit lyrically sparse numbers that will no doubt find their way into the pop charts: The graphic suggestiveness of the infectious "Sexyback" ("I'll let you whip me if I misbehave.../ You're burning up for me and that's a fact") is lost in the track's scorching hooks, thank goodness.

Irresistible

If you want another serving of the "Off The Wall"-like charms of "Rock Your Body" or "Señorita," you'll find it here in tracks like "Love Stoned/ I Think She Knows." If you find the hip-hop, R&B groove of "Like I Love You" irresistible, "Damn Girl" will serve you equally well.

Timberlake knows how to lure record buyers into listening to his aurally dynamic, albeit thematically scant songs. Now, more than ever, his songs feel like they're engineered for pop-chart success.

And his artistry is compromised by his obvious musical influences: "Damn Girl" sounds like a refurbished, techno version of a Prince ditty, and his Michael Jackson-like dance licks and vocal affectations are likewise all over the place (sampling beats of Wacko Jacko's "Gotta Be Starting Something" are evident in the ever-changing tempo of "Love Stoned").

Power ballad

Like an afterthought, he places his slower R&B tunes and adult-contemporary numbers (the make-out romantic song, "Summer Love/ Set the Mood," "Until the End of Time") in the final third of the track listing. The last tune, "(Another Song) All Over Again," a well-sung number about love and forgiveness, is the album's requisite power ballad.

Justin's voice may not have the power and vocal brilliance of his former colleague in 'NSync, JC Chasez, but he more than makes up for it in technique and charisma. Problem is, he just doesn't have as distinctive a voice as, say, Lee Ryan or Robbie Williams. So, what does he do for an encore?

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20 after-Edsa shorts ignite 'Imahe Nasyon'

By Rica Arevalo

JANICE Jurado, Soliman Cruz and Ping Medina in Paolo Villaluna's "One Shot."

IN "IMAHE NASYON," THE CONCEPT IS simple: Gather 20 filmmakers to each make a five-minute short about the Filipino's struggle for freedom and democracy, 20 years after the Edsa revolution.

The endeavor produces mixed results. But, the distinct visions and personal statements of young, innovative filmmakers make all of them winners in our book.

Surprisingly on that particular platform, Lav Diaz shows he can make a short film. Yes, his "Nang Matapos ang Ulan" is a meditative, quiet film about emptiness, but watching the director's trademark style of using real time and no camera movement makes it the longest five minutes ever.

Teaser

Raymond Red comes up with "Mistulang Kamera Obskura," the teaser of his upcoming feature's work in progress. Red tells the story of a prisoner (Pen Medina) locked inside a cell and how he perceives a fellow prisoner (Ping Medina) from a hole.

The most striking work is Neil Daza's "Biyaheng Langit." The filmmaker shares, "The whole essence of the independent spirit is so much alive in the 'Imahe Nasyon' project." Daza's short film reminds me of an early work of Alejandro Gonzalez Iñarritu. The gritty, hand-held style shows the contrasts and similarities between thieves and government officials.

Topel Lee's "Ang Manunulat" is a statement about silencing press freedom. The use of a faceless man covered with black cloth while riding a horse on a Manila street is striking and powerful.

Paolo Villaluna's "One Shot" is filmed in "one long take" to dramatize the unchanging dynamic of a family (Soliman Cruz, Janice Jurado, etc.) through four administrations. He explains, "Filmmakers are empowered to change things, not be co-opted into the bad values of the previous generation."

National anthem

"5 Minutes" by Ogi Sugatan uses the national anthem to show man's laziness. "In this film, I try to question patriotism and the Pinoy's 'Juan Tamad' attitude," says Sugatan.

The only woman filmmaker in the group, Ellen Ramos, directs "Speci Men." "I would like to believe that Edsa 1 drastically transformed us, and made us realize that we can make changes happen—it was sort of an extreme make-over," the award-winning animator shares. Ramos' film takes place inside a beauty parlor featuring Bella Flores as a beautician who transforms men into hot, sexy babes.

Conceptualized by Jon and Carol Red for Digital Viva, "Imahe Nasyon" will have a regular run this month in selected theaters.

Unsung heroes

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

LEO T. GUINGON is a retired accountant who worked for many years at the Housing Authority of Jersey City, USA. With his wife, Cecilia Abesamis of General Tinio, Nueva Ecija, they moved to New Jersey in 1971.

Upon coming home to San Isidro, Nueva Ecija, they bought a historical house built in 1800 that was used as a Spanish garrison, at the corner of Ballarta and P. Carmen sts. The house is now used for senior citizens' activities and gospel studies.

Guingon and his wife reside in Diliman and visit San Isidro weekly. With their and some friends' money, they support 12 high school students and 27 pupils in the elementary grades.

These students are deaf and mute, but are integrated in the San Isidro Central School through the Department of Public Schools' Sped program, in collaboration with the Deaf Evangelistic Alliance Foundation Inc., where Guingon is a board member.

Educational program

Deaf, Inc. also operates a deaf and mute educational program in Cavinti, Laguna, from elementary to high school and college levels. It trains public school teachers to teach through sign language.

For her part, Sonia R. Lorenzo, San Isidro's mayor, is a two-time Most Outstanding Mayor Awardee of the Provincial Government of Nueva Ecija.

And *Konsehal* bini Bunag Sponsors Ordinances Pertaining To Health, Women And Youth.

GUINGON (center) with Lorenzo (left) and Bunag.

San Isidro is a model town visited by local government representatives from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, and Mayor Lorenzo travels to other regions to talk about how to implement good governance in terms of health, education, housing and agriculture.

E-mail mandynavasero@yahoo.com, or call 896-3208.

NOW SHOWING

Computer virus wreaks havoc in real world

By Rito P. Asilo

"Pulse"

D: Jim Sonzero

S: Kristen Bell, Ian Somerhalder, Christina Milian

BELL. Plays psychology major in Sonzero's chiller.

THIS WEEK'S REMAKE of an Asian contemporary classic, Jim Sonzero's Hollywood take on Kiyoshi Kurosawa's magnificent 2001 technophobic horror drama—about a group of young adults haunted by the unexpected suicide of one of their friends—taps into man's ever-increasing paranoia over everything that concerns the society he lives in, and into his dependence on modern technology.

When a mysterious computer virus crosses over from the alternate reality of the world wide web to the real world, it takes shape as ghoulish creatures ready to wreak havoc on the lives of psychology major, Mattie (Kristen Bell) and tech-savvy Dexter (the promising Ian Somerhalder)—and mankind!

Despite the movie's talented actors and its relevant, cautionary theme, Sonsero's version is weighed down by worn-out scarifying gimmicks—and a dragging first half—that aim to please more than bring a new perspective to a predictable premise. The film has its charms, but as they say: If it ain't broke, don't fix it!

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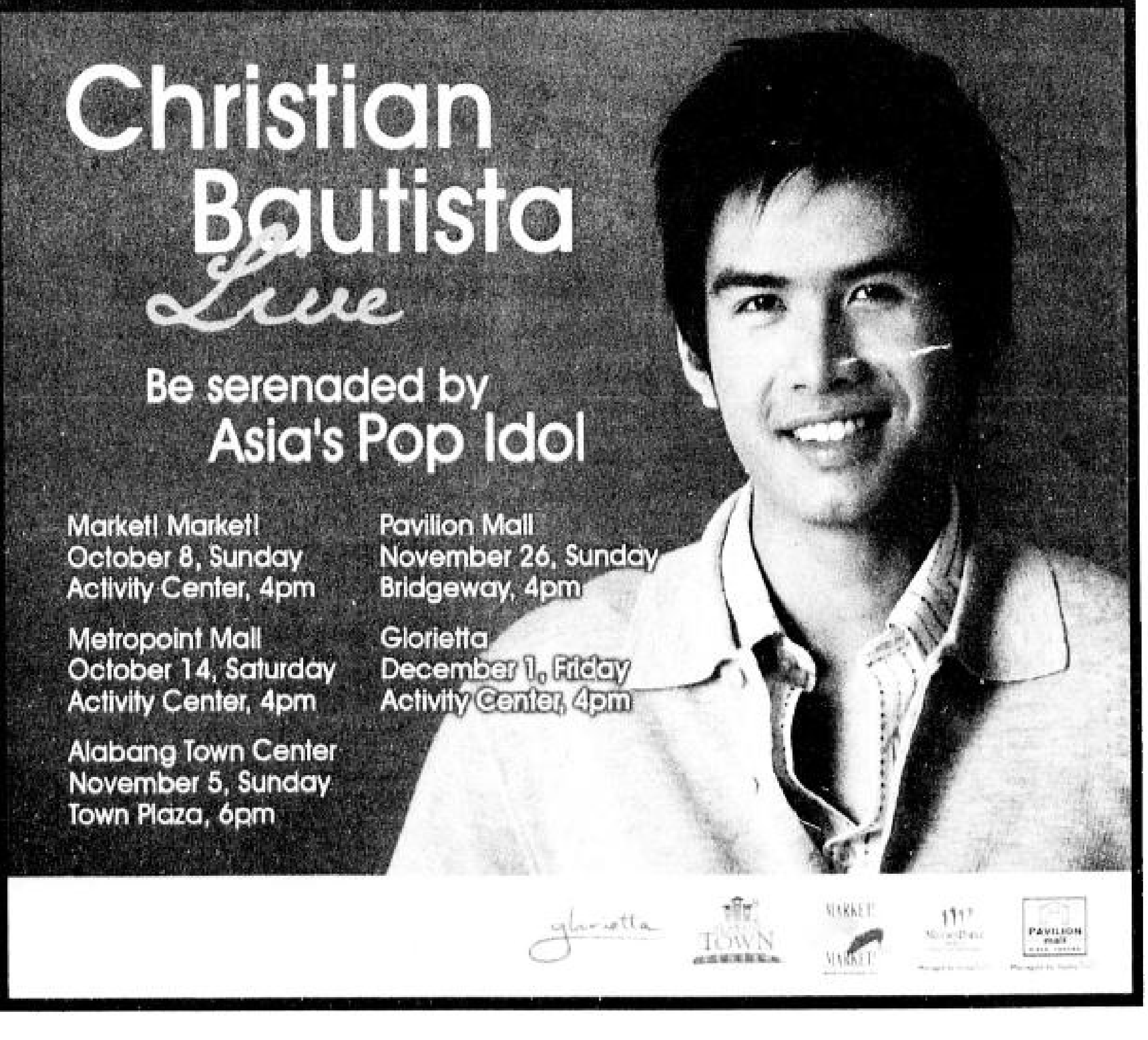

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IKEDA (fourth from left) received an honorary doctorate from the University of Glasgow in 1994.

200th honorary degree for Dr. Daisaku Ikeda

DR. DAISAKU IKEDA, PRESIDENT OF Soka Gakkai International, has been conferred by Beijing Normal university an honorary professorship—his 200th honorary degree.

Ikeda has contributed to peace building through education and cultural exchange between countries around the globe.

In the Philippines, Mr. Ikeda has established educational exchange programs between Soka University in Tokyo, which he founded, and the University of the Philippines, De La Salle University and Capitol University in Cagayan de Oro.

Mr. Ikeda has also conducted peace dialogues with former presidents Corazon C. Aquino, Fidel V. Ramos and Joseph E. Estrada.

Cultural exchange

Ikeda has been honored by the Cultural Center of the Philippines for his contribution to cultural exchanges between the Philippines and Japan. He was presented the CCP's Juan Luna Award in 1993.

In the field of education, Ikeda has been conferred doctorate degrees by the University of the Philippines "Honoris Causa In Law" in 1991; University of the City of Manila "Doctorate of Humanities" in 1994; De La Salle University "Doctorate of Humane Letters" in 1997; Angeles University "Doctor of Humanities" in 2001; University of the Southern Philippines "Doctor of Humanitites" in 2001; Gregorio Araneta University "Doctor of Humanities" in 2002; Capitol University "Doctor of Humanities" in 2004; Batangas State University "Doctor of Pedagogy" in 2005 and Pampanga Agricultural College "Doctor of Humanities" in 2006.

IKEDA. Lauded for his contributions to peace, education and cultural exchange.

Other awards

Other awards in Education: Cagayan Capitol College "Total Person" Award; Philippine Bataan Heroes Memorial College "Golden Peace Award": Angeles University of the Philippine "University Medal of Honor": University of Southern Philippine "Rizal Peace Award."

'Happy Tales'

Twelve animé stories created by Ikeda have been translated into Tagalog and aired on GMA-7 as "Happy Tales." They have received high grades from viewers nationwide, and also the Anak TV Seal and the 2004 Anak TV Broadcasters' Award.

These animé tales have been compiled in DVD format and shown in various schools in Manila and Cagayan De Oro, receiving favorable reviews from students, parents and teachers.

Bullock headlines new 'Capote' film

"INFAMOUS" IS FAST BECOMING famous for being one of the unluckiest films in years. By coincidence, the biopic about Truman Capote and his crime classic, "In Cold Blood," covers identical ground to last year's acclaimed hit, "Capote," which got Philip Seymour Hoffman an Oscar for playing the title role.

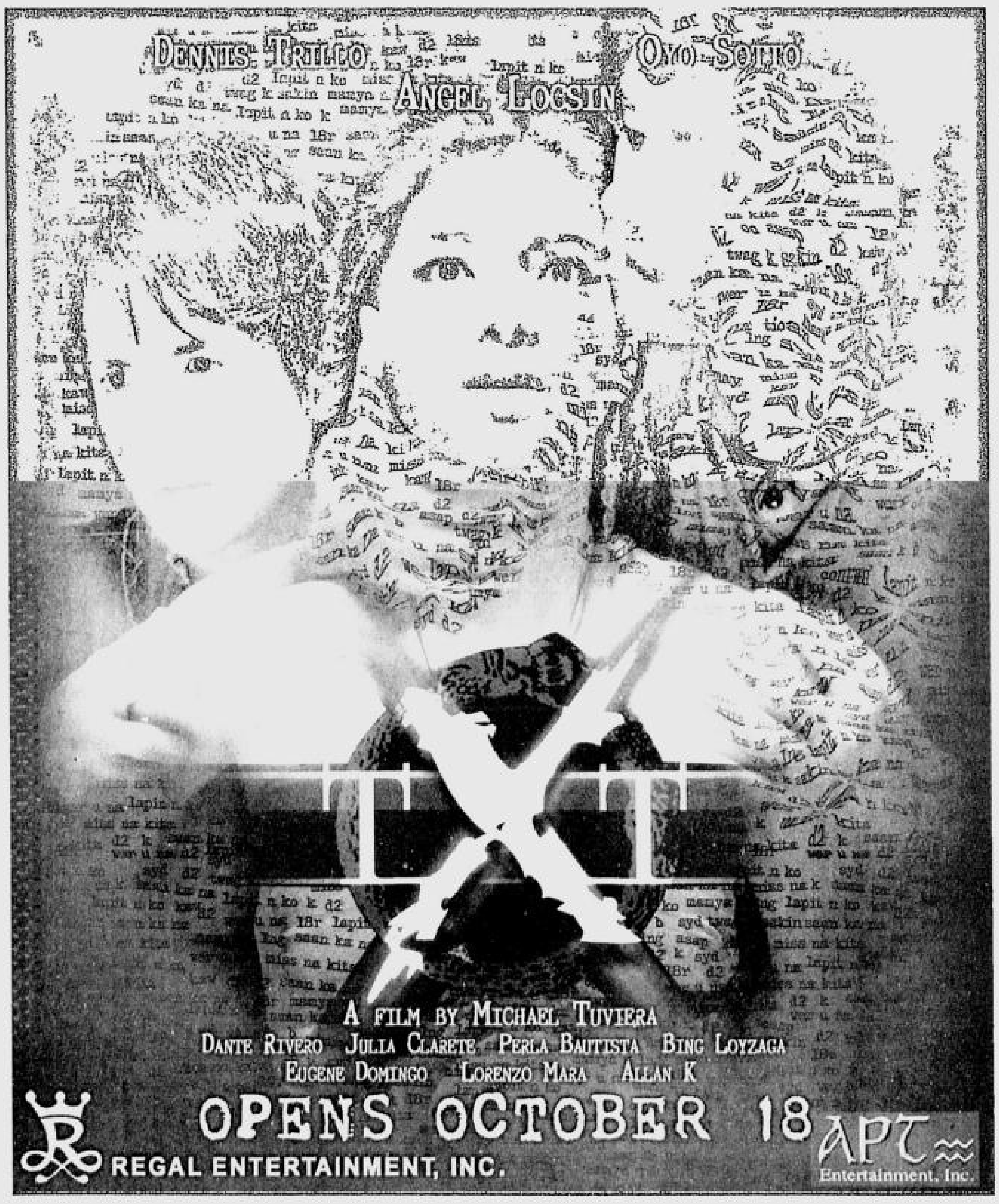
But, Sandra Bullock, who portrays "To Kill A Mockingbird" author, Nelle Harper Lee, in the new movie, said she believed there was room for both films. "If the film is good, what difference does it make? Consider it the remake of 'Capote.' The reception we're getting shows that there's always room for good films."," she told Reuters in an interview.

Different perspectives

The 42-year-old star praised "Infamous'" studio Warner Independent Pictures for sticking it out with the project. "The beauty of it is, we have two films that are very well-written, and are made from different perspectives about the same subject matter—and studios chose to make them both! Warner could have pulled the plug and said: 'No, one movie's already being made.' So, we need to applaud that!"

Bullock, best known for comic roles like "Miss Congeniality" and the action blockbuster, "Speed," was pleased to play another serious role in "Infamous," which comes on the heels of the Oscar-winning racial drama, "Crash." "Comedy is hard to do. You have to take a break from it, because things cease to be funny," she explained. "I'll always do comedy—I love it. But, you have to go after the good roles when they're there."

Reuters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Unique art exhibit by Guhit visual artists

GUHIT ARTISTS. (From left, front) Angelo Baldemor, Felipe Mayoya, Tito Sanchez; (back) Joven Ignacio, Aladin Antiqueño, Araceli Limcaco Dans, Janice Luison Young and Azor Pazcoguin.

GUHIT, A GROUP OF eight noted visual artists, has been working quietly together for the past four years, to improve their craftsmanship and creativity.

Due to popular demand from art lovers and collectors to give identity to their group, the title, "Guhit" was unanimously chosen by all for their forthcoming art exhibit.

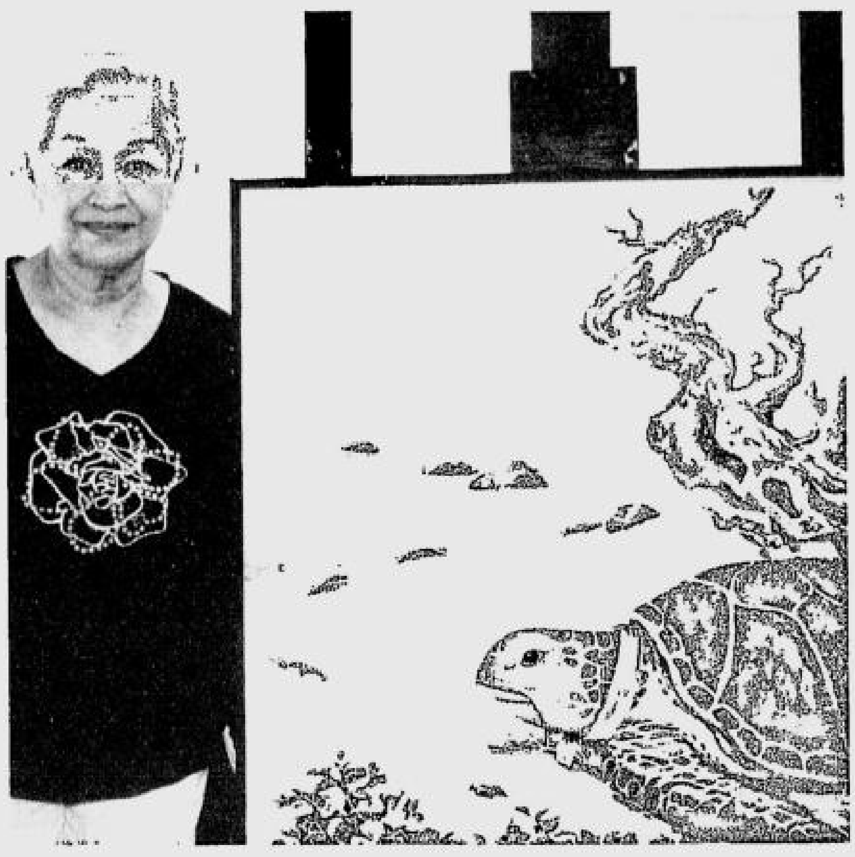
The eight noted artits are Aladin Antiqueño, Angelo Baldemor, Araceli Limcaco Dans, Joven Ignacio, Azor Pazcoguin, Felipe Mayoya, Janice Luison Young and Tito Sanchez.

Interaction

The concerted efforts of the Guhit artists to grow artistically will be displayed in their forthcoming art exhibit called "Agos ng Sining."

A unique feature of this exhibit is the Guhit artists' painting interaction on eight canvasses expressing their excitement and delight at the hundreds of newly hatched baby *pawikan* (sea turtles) they set free into the sea during their sortie at the Montemar Beach Club in Bataan early this year.

The painting interaction of the Guhit group, according to Araceli Dans, is a campaign to save the *pawikan* in the Philippines: "It is a wake-up call to all Filipinos. Say 'No' to selling the turtles and their eggs. Say 'No' to dynamite and cyanide fishing. Say 'No' to oil spills from commercial sea vehicles, or any perilous elements that will destroy our corals and seas.



DANS with "Alas Siyete ng Umaga," her artistic tribute to the *pawikan*.

Pristine beauty

"If we love our country, we must save and maintain the pristine beauty and richness of our Philippine waters and seashores. This is the most valuable God-given inheritance we can give to our children and grandchildren!"

The "Agos ng Sining" exhibit will open on Wednesday, Oct. 25 at 6 in the evening, at the Art Center and Galerie "Y" at level 4, Building A, of SM Megamall. It will run until Nov. 7. Gallery hours are from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Call Galerie 'Y' at 634-2704.

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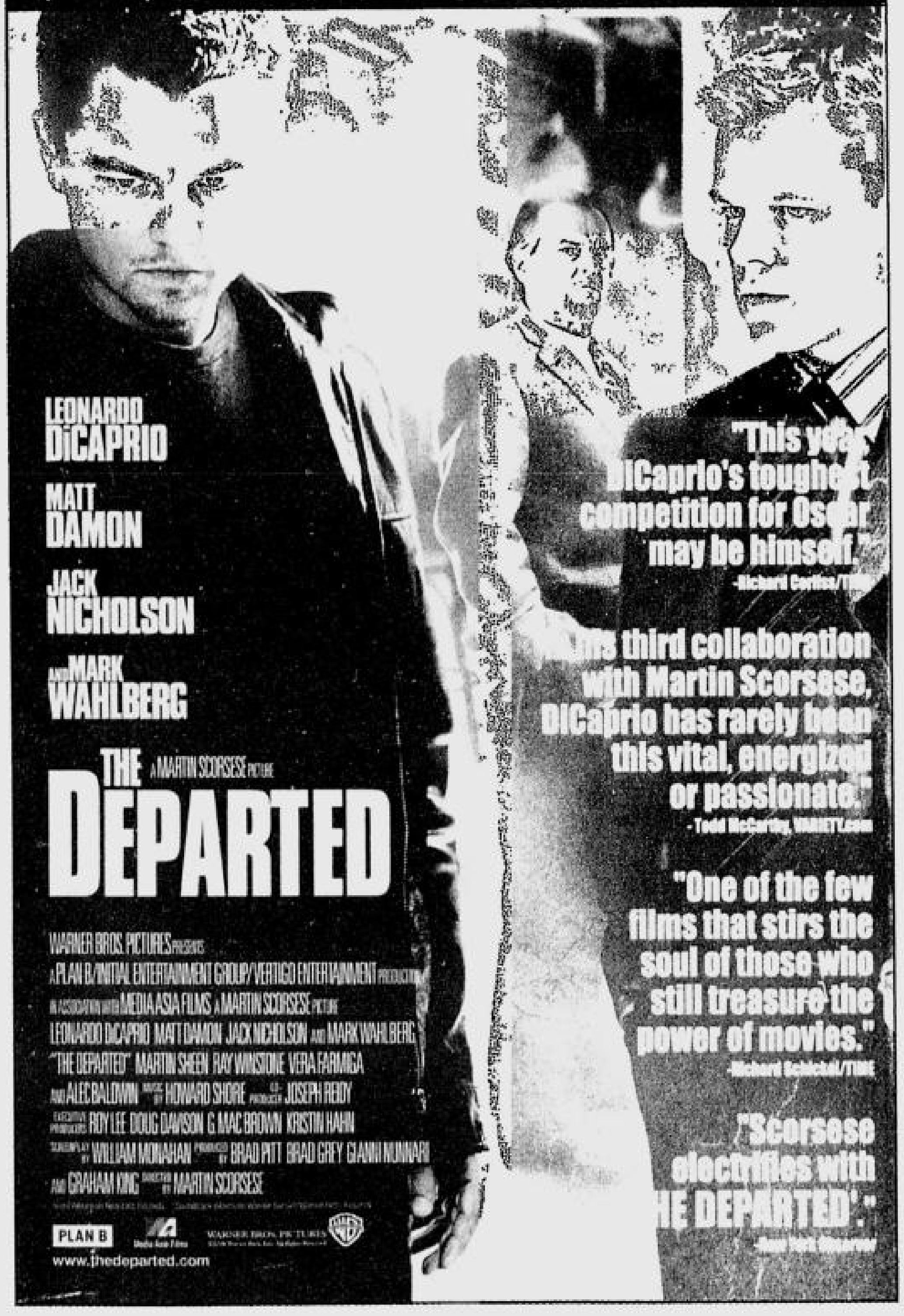

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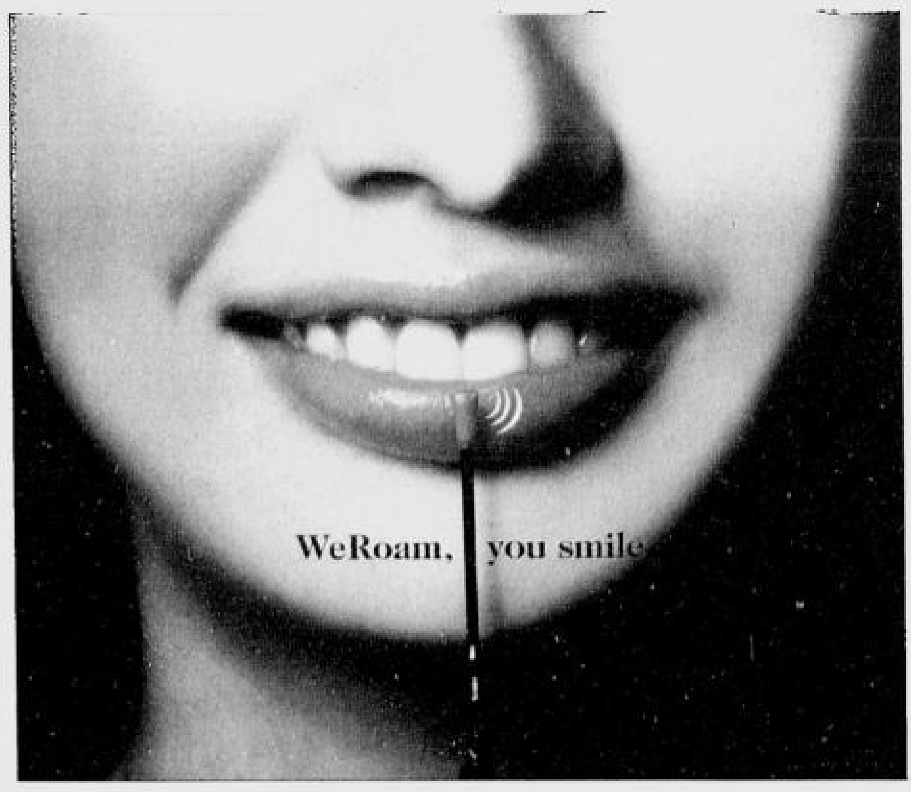

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DiCAPRIO. From dreamy romantic lead in "Titanic" to tormented antihero in "The Departed."

Scorsese brings out the best and toughest in Leonardo DiCaprio

By Nestor U. Torre

LEONARDO DiCAPRIO made his mark in the movies as a young actor especially adept at playing sensitive and troubled characters. And, in the mega-hit, "Titanic," he established himself as the dreamy young-adult male romantic lead to beat.

Despite his considerable thespic achievements, however, DiCaprio was generally deemed by industry insiders as too softly sensitive to play tough, gritty characters in action-dramas.

Transition

He tried to make the transition in "Gangs of New York," but the results were less than convincing. Happily, 2006 has turned out to be a threshold year for DiCaprio, because he's finally come up with a powerfully gritty and edgy performance in Martin Scorsese's latest in-your-face cops-and-criminals drama, "The Departed."

Trust Scorsese to bring out the best and toughest in DiCaprio. In the compelling action-drama, the actor portrays Billy Costigam, a state trooper who becomes a mole in the gang of local mob boss Frank Costello (Jack Nicholson).

The assignment is so dangerous that the mole lives at knife's edge from day to day. The highly-stressed character he's tasked to portray has forced DiCaprio to go beyond his sensitive and dreamy image of old, and discover darker, deeper aspects to his thespic psyche.

The difficult assignment offers rich rewards for both DiCaprio and the film's viewers, who are expertly drawn by Scorsese into the fetid, feral underworld of high-stakes crime, where death lurks around every corner.

Natural choice

With his eminently effective transformation in "The Departed," DiCaprio has revved up his film career in a major way, and made himself a natural choice of other filmmakers for more challenging and complex roles to come. Even better, he could clinch at least an Oscar nomination for his tough yet insightful portrayal in Scorsese's latest masterwork.

Best of all, "The Departed" also turns out to be a triumph for Scorsese, Nicholson and Matt Damon, who plays Costigan's counter-doppelganger, Billy Sullivan—who is Costello's own mole in the police unit that's been put up to bring him down!

The fact that both DiCaprio and Damon's characters are named Billy is no accident, since they're very similar to each other, except for the fact that they're on opposite, combative sides of the law.

On their toes

Nicholson is malevolently compelling as Costello, and his larger-than-life portrayal keeps his younger stellar counterparts on their toes throughout the film.

Martin Sheen also turns in an exceptional performance as Costigan's superior. But the most adulatory plaudits go to filmmaker Scorsese for his excellent handling of his film's complex, tragic tale.

With unflinching realism, he shows how his crime story's "good" and "bad" characters' paths continually bisect and intersect. He also makes expert use of cell phones and other totems of modern technology to keep his storytelling edgily topical.

Scorsese may already be in his 60s, but "The Departed" shows that he's at the peak of his powers. And Leo DiCaprio benefits most from his masterful mentorship!

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GALLERIA

1 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA • THX
12:30 2:55 5:20 7:45 10:00
2 THE DEPARTED
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00
3 FLY BOYS
1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00
4 PULSE
1:40 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00
5 TALLADEGA NIGHTS
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
6 FIRST DAY HIGH
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
7 DEAD OR ALIVE
1:40 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00
8 ZOOM
1:25 3:30 5:35 7:40 9:50
9 STEP UP
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
10 TWILIGHT DANCERS
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

ERMITA 636-7809 to 12

1 THE DEPARTED 12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00
2 TWILIGHT DANCERS
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
3 FLY BOYS 11:20 2:00 4:40
STEP UP 7:40 10:00
4 FIRST DAY HIGH
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
5 DEAD OR ALIVE
12.30 2:50 5.10 7:30 10:00
6 TALLADEGA NIGHTS
11:45 1.45 3:45 5.50 7:55 10:00
7 PULSE
12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8169

1 DEAD OR ALIVE
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
11.15 1:45 4:15 6:45 9:10
3 THE DEPARTED
11:20 2:30 5:40 9:00
4 FLY BOYS
12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00
5 STEP UP
12:00 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10
6 ZOOM
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
7 PULSE
12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10
8 THE BREED
1:40 3:45 5:50 7:30 9:10

NOVALICHES [illegible]

1 THE DEPARTED
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 PULSE
4 FLY BOYS

CITISQUARE MALABON [illegible]

1 AN AMERICAN HAUNTING
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER [illegible]

1 THE DEPARTED
2 PULSE
3 FIRST DAY HIGH
4 FLY BOYS

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1 FIRST DAY HIGH
2 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
3 FLY BOYS
4 TWILIGHT DANCERS

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1 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 ZOOM
4 DEAD OR ALIVE

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2124 (046) 416-4332

1 ZOOM
2 TWILIGHT DANCERS
3 POSSESSED BY EVIL
4 FIRST DAY HIGH

ANGELES [illegible]

1 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
2 TWILIGHT DANCERS
3 FIRST DAY HIGH
4 THE DEPARTED

IMUS [illegible]

1 THE DEPARTED
2 AN AMERICAN HAUNTING
3 FIRST DAY HIGH
4 TWILIGHT DANCERS

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-6270

1 POSSESSED BY EVIL
2 TWILIGHT DANCERS
3 FIRST DAY HIGH
4 THE WICKER MAN
5 SNAKES ON A PLANE
6 THE DEPARTED

BACOLOD [illegible]

1 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 CRANK
5 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
6 ZOOM

ILOILO [illegible]

1 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 TWILIGHT DANCERS
4 SCOOP

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1 THE DEPARTED
2 TALLADEGA NIGHTS
3 GERMAN FILM FEST
4 PULSE
ZOOM / STEP UP

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Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
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1 THE DEPARTED
2 FLY BOYS
3 FIRST DAY HIGH
4 ZOOM

starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 FIRST DAY HIGH
4 FLY BOYS
5 TWILIGHT DANCERS

metropolis star
www.sicklitstudy.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994
1 FIRST DAY HIGH
2 PULSE
3 THE DEPARTED
4 POSSESSED BY EVIL

THEATRES
SNAKE ON A PLANE
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271
JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
FIRST DAY HIGH
RESERVED
RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMAS
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3572 or 72
1 STEP UP
2 ZOOM
3 THE DEPARTED
4 THE DEPARTED
5 FLY BOYS
6 PULSE
7 FIRST DAY HIGH
8 DEAD OR ALIVE
9 YOU ME & DUPREE
10 THE BREED

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 FIRST DAY HIGH
2 PULSE
3 THE DEPARTED
4 RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 THE DEPARTED
3 FIRST DAY HIGH
4 TWILIGHT DANCERS
5 DEAD OR ALIVE

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 FIRST DAY HIGH
2 MORTUARY
3 YOU ME & DUPREE
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 FIRST DAY HIGH
2 FLY BOYS
3 PULSE

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 TWILIGHT DANCERS
2 THE DEPARTED

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 FIRST DAY HIGH
2 THE DEPARTED
3 TWILIGHT DANCERS
4 STEP UP

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 SNAKE ON A PLANE
2 FIRST DAY HIGH

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C 5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 STEP UP / FLY BOYS
2 THE DEPARTED
3 TALLADEGA NIGHT
4 ZOOM

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1 BUTTERFLY EFFECT
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 CRANK
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 BUTTERFLY EFFECT
2 FLY BOYS
3 YOU ME & DUPREE
4 FIRST DAY HIGH

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 ZOOM
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 THE WICKER MAN

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 FIRST DAY HIGH
2 CRANK
3 ZOOM
4 THE WICKER MAN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795 3320
1 SNAKE ON A PLANE
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 STORMBREAKER

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 FIRST DAY HIGH
2 BINIBINING K

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 VERDICT
2 CRANK

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 CRANK
WALANG DAYAAN AKIN ANG MALAKI
3 NAGLALAYAG
4 POSSESSED BY EVIL

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 STAY ALIVE
2 SINFUL NIGHT
3 FIRST DAY HIGH
4 CRANK
5 BUTTERFLY EFFECT-2

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 ZOOM
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 DEAD OR ALIVE
4 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED

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Sterling performance from Nora Aunor

By Ronald G. Mangubat

AUNOR. Her acting prowess shines—and soars.

AFTER YEARS IN THE STATES, Superstar Nora Aunor, who is sorely missed by her fans, returns to the screen via a digital film, "Ingrata," and comes up with another sterling performance. The movie is directed by Joey Gonzales from a script by Bernardo Bernardo, another actor and director based in the US.

In "Ingrata," Aunor portrays Bea, one of the struggling *Pinoys* in Los Angeles (or "Lost Angeles," as she tells her gay brother, Hermie, portrayed by Bernardo). After many years of living abroad, she is still slaving to make ends meet.

She lives in a mobile house and holds two jobs—as a convenience store crew in a gasoline station and as a waitress in a Filipino restaurant.

Teenage daughter

She has a teenage daughter from a previous relationship and lives with Noli (John Rendez), an irresponsible bum, who has just gotten out of prison after serving a sentence for threatening and assaulting a black man and carrying a deadly weapon.

Bea is smart, good-natured and highly skilled, but according to her daughter, sister and friends, it's her stupid heart that makes her unable to achieve more and to progress in life.

In fact, it is poor Bea who supports her overweight, alcoholic and internet-porn-addict lover—she even does the household chores for him, all in the name of love.

She clearly understands her martyr complex, but still finds herself stuck in a rut. It is only when her older brother Hermie visits and squats in her abode that she slowly learns to get a grip on her life and eventually empower herself.

Family ties

"Ingata" imparts a lesson or two about self-empowerment and the importance of close family ties in a foreign land, where relationships are precarious and oftentimes fleeting.

But it fails to dramatize its situations in an engaging and involving manner because of its inferior elements.

For one, the supporting cast can't keep up with Aunor and Bernardo's sharp and felt performances. And one can't completely loathe Rendez's character, because he merely mouths his lines.

The same goes for the film's technical aspects. The sound is bad, the editing sloppy. In one scene, the camera even catches the shadow of the boom mike's pole!

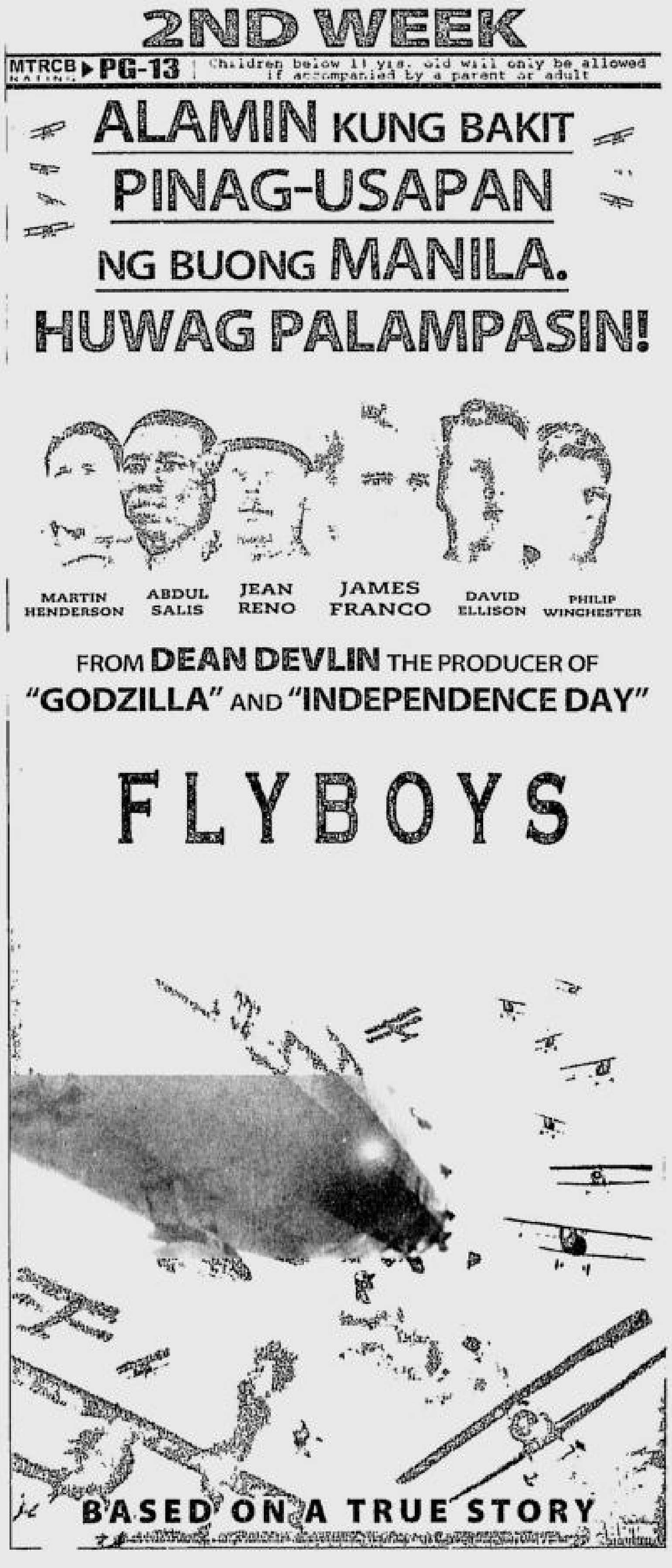
Halfway through the film, we keep wondering who the "Ingrata" is, because Aunor's character is definitely not an ingrate.

It is only in the final scene that Bernardo dramatically intones, "*...sa kabila pala ng lahat, hindi siya ingrata!*" —What?!

Thin plot

With the film's small scope and thin plot, we feel that "Ingrata" should have been produced for television rather than for the big screen.

But if there's one thing that pleases us, it's the thought that it's *really* hard to put a great actress down. Because, even in a lackluster film, Nora Aunor's acting prowess still shines—and soars!



2ND WEEK
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NG BUONG MANILA.
HUWAG PALAMPASIN!
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FLYBOYS
BASED ON A TRUE STORY

"THE BANQUET." Visually splendid film set in ancient China during a period of internal turmoil and external threat.

A tale of two 'Banquets'

By Noelani Torre

LAST OCT. 3, THE MANDARIN ORIental Manila, DDB Philippines and Creative Products Inc., came up with unique twin events—the press conference for the new Ziyi Zhang starrer, "The Banquet," and the launch of the hotel's Tin Hau Chinese restaurant's Banquets.

The combination of cinematic and gustatory banquets turned out to be a feast for both the eye and the palate, and the media people at the twin launches rose excitedly to the occasion, savoring both the special feast that Tin Hau had prepared for them, and the movie's visually splendid trailers.

Those trailers informed viewers that "The Banquet" is set in ancient China during a period of internal turmoil and external threat, and focuses on the young Empress Wan (Ziyi Zhang).

ZHANG. Luminous presence.

Forbidden desire

She is as expert a fighter as she is beautiful, but something is lacking in her life. Unfulfilled in her royal boudoir, she harbors a forbidden desire for her stepson, Prince Wu Luan (Daniel Wu), an introverted young man in the Hamlet mold.

When the Emperor suddenly dies and his younger brother Li (Ge You) takes over the throne, Wan shocks everyone by agreeing to marry Li, convinced that this is the only way to protect Wu Luan, while sealing her own position in the court.

But Li is no fool, and only pretends to buy into her scheme, while secretly dispatching his guards to kill his nephew.

The already despondent prince is pushed to the end of his tether when he realizes that his own life is being threatened. After warding off an assassination attempt, he vows to kill his uncle, whom he now believes has murdered his father (shades of Hamlet—again!). Meanwhile, Empress Wan and the Grand Marshall also have their own plans to put in lethal play.

Aside from the luminous presence of Ziyi Zhang, the film boasts of the direction of Feng Xiaogang, the action-choreography of Yuen Wo-Ping (the "Matrix" films), and designer Tim Yip ("Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon").

Phenomenal gross

No wonder, the film is currently taking Asian theaters by storm, with a phenomenal US$13 million gross, and counting. It should do similarly well when it starts screening in Manila on Oct. 18.

On the gustatory side, Tin Hau presented a delectable sampling of its new a la carte and set menus this month, offering a variety of choices—from Chinese roasting, dried seafood varieties and abalone, live and fresh seafood, meat, poultry, noodles and rice, to vegetarian dishes.

Executive Chinese chef Hann Furn Cheu and restaurant manager Ernest Lau have conceptualized new dishes like Roasted pipa pigeon Cantonese-style; Braised eight treasures' shark's fin soup; Stewed eel with garlic, mushroom and barbecue sauce; and Chilled bird's nest with red dates.

Six new set menus have also been created, enticingly named Jasmine, Lotus, Emperor, Phoenix, Oriental and Mandarin, and they will be presented with gift items from "The Banquet." Tin Hau diners also have the privilege of changing some of the dishes in the set menus to gourmet dishes at special prices. Call 750-8888, extension 2422 or 2424.

Celebrities use stardom for advocacy

AFRICA HAS LONG BEEN A FAVORITE destination for celebrity campaigners, going back 50 years.

The UN Children's Fund (Unicef) began the recruitment of "goodwill ambassadors" in the early 1950s with actor Danny Kaye and then, actress Audrey Hepburn, followed by British actor Peter Ustinov and singer-actor Harry Belafonte.

Hollywood gloss

U2's Bono and fellow Irish rocker, Bob Geldof, with his Live Aid concerts are now Africa veterans. More recently, Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie brought Hollywood gloss to the continent.

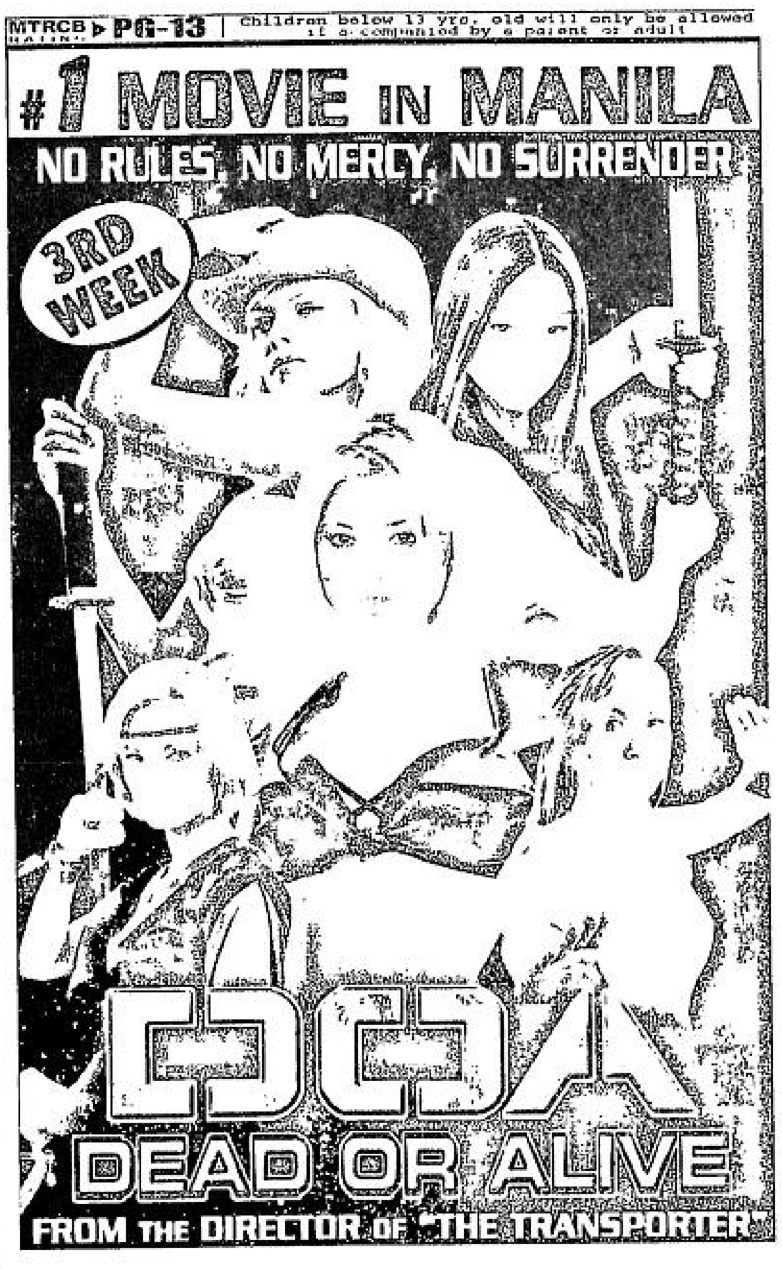
Here are details of other celebrities involved in African charities and causes:

- **Oprah Winfrey.** Oprah has selected 73 girls for the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls in South Africa. The academy, which will open in January, has been sanctioned by South Africa's education authorities who donated the site near Johannesburg. The Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy Foundation contributed $40 million.
- **Matt Damon.** Damon recently visited Zambia as a guest of the Africa advocacy group Debt AIDS Trade Africa (Data) and ONE: The Campaign to Make Poverty History. Matt saw the symptoms of—and solutions to—extreme poverty and global disease.

Refugees

- **George Clooney.** Clooney visited the Darfur region of Sudan last April to raise awareness of the plight of refugees in the war-torn region.
- **Mia Farrow.** Farrow visited Darfur in June, her second trip to the region.
- **Alyssa Milano.** Milano toured civil-war-torn Angola and said Africa is one way celebrities can transform an unprecedented level of scrutiny into their lives into something productive.
- **Madonna.** Madonna's charity plans were announced in an interview with Time magazine. She has promised to raise $3 million to fund programs that would help orphans.

Reuters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NO RULES, NO MERCY, NO SURRENDER
3RD WEEK
DOA
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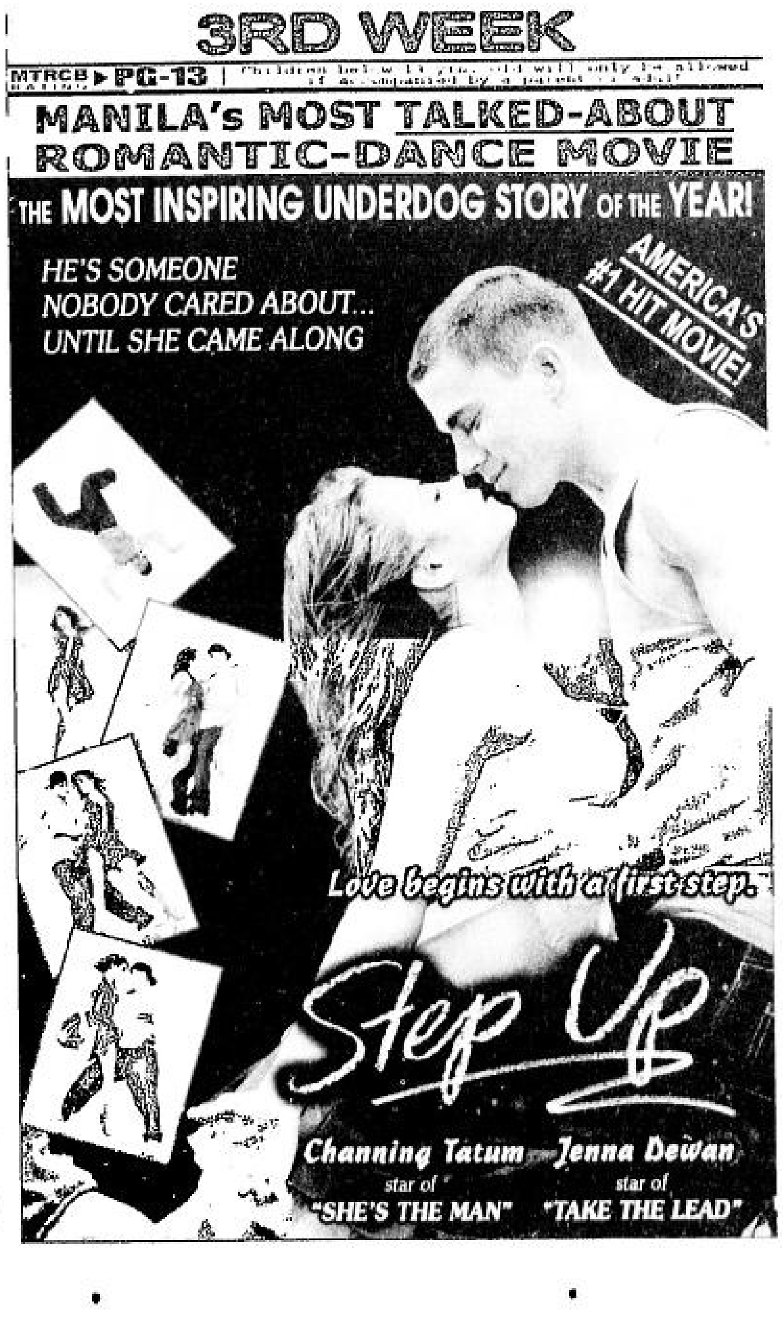
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "THE TRANSPORTER"



3RD WEEK
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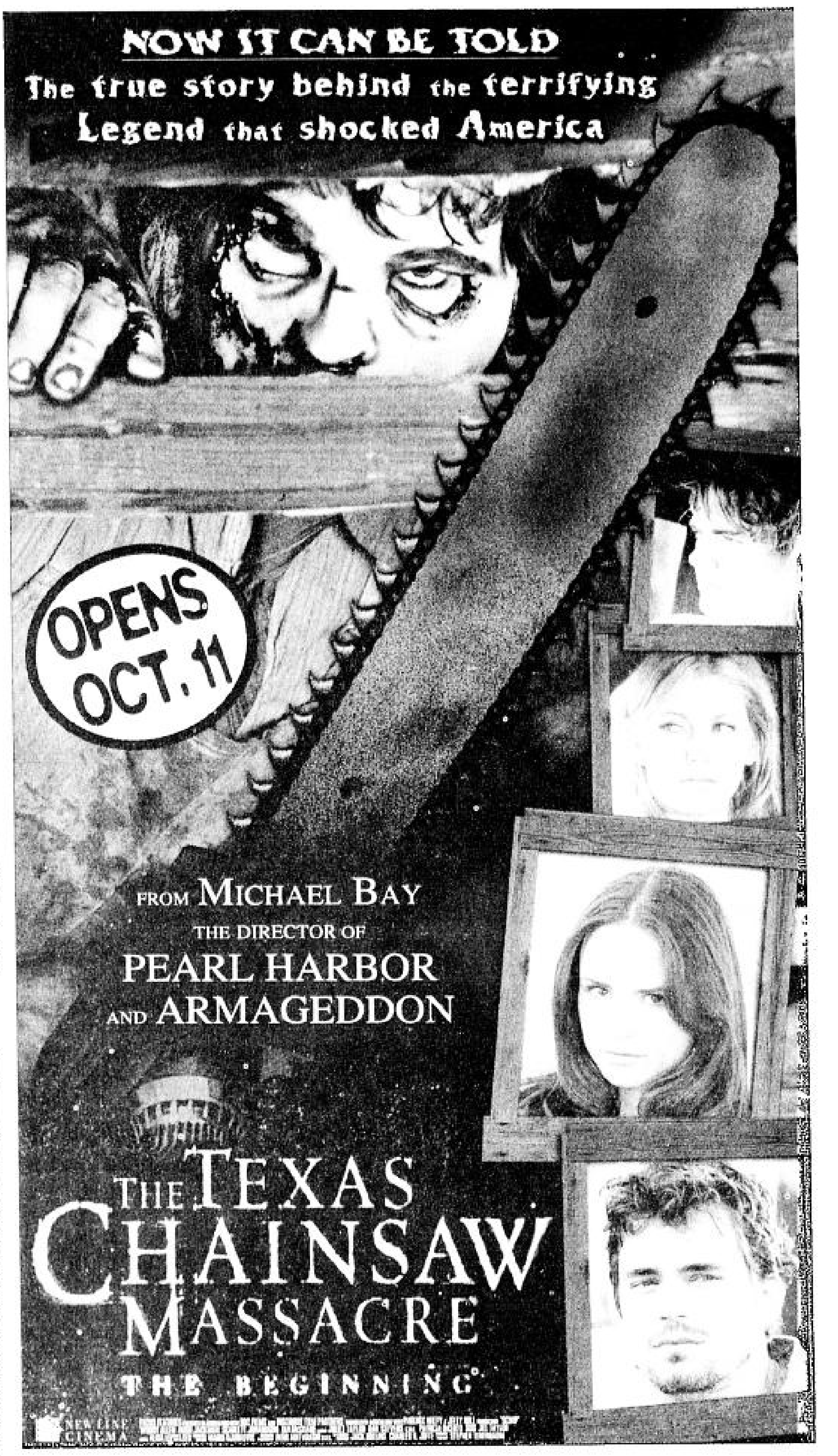
MANILA's MOST TALKED-ABOUT ROMANTIC-DANCE MOVIE
THE MOST INSPIRING UNDERDOG STORY OF THE YEAR!
HE'S SOMEONE NOBODY CARED ABOUT... UNTIL SHE CAME ALONG
AMERICA'S #1 HIT MOVIE!
Love begins with a first step.
Step Up
Channing Tatum star of "SHE'S THE MAN"
Jenna Dewan star of "TAKE THE LEAD"



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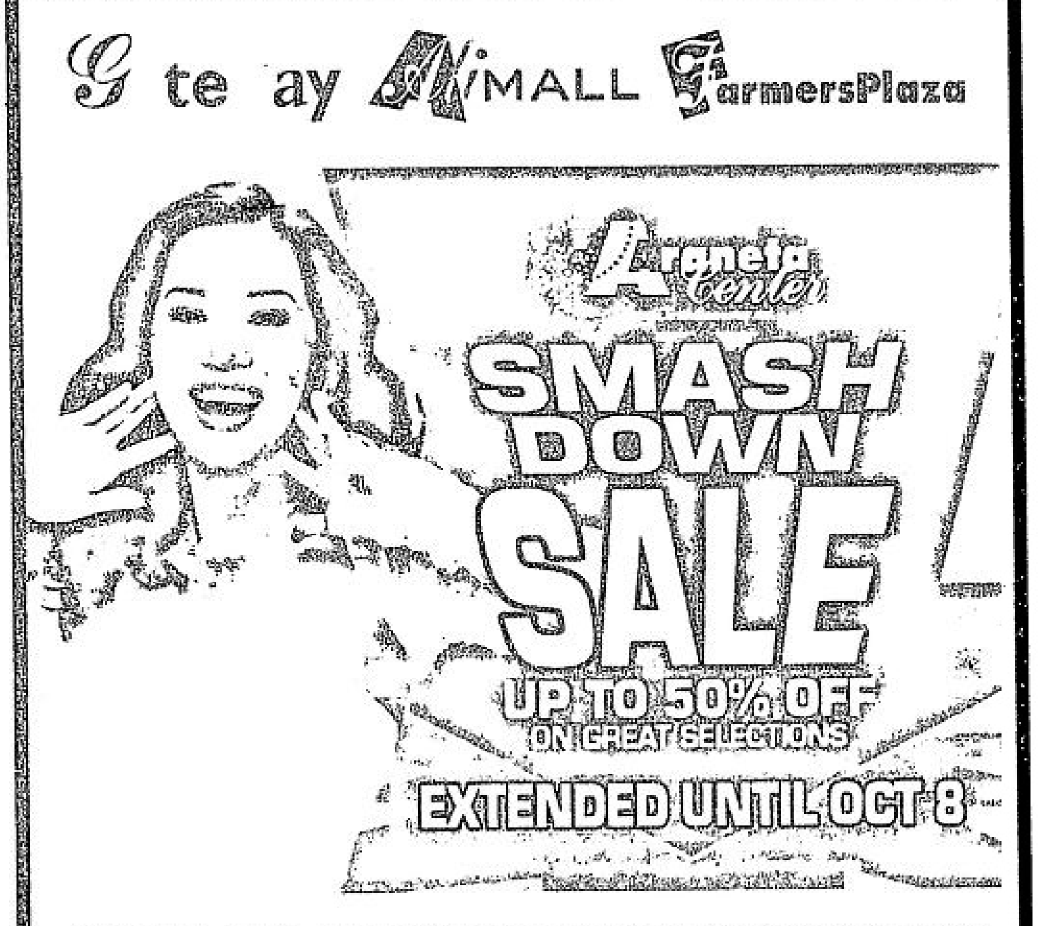

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TALLADEGA NIGHTS 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30
FLYBOYS 6:40 / 9:30
THE BREED 15 / 3:25 / 5:35 / 7:45 / 9:50
ZOOM [illegible] 3:25 / 5:35 / 7:45 / 9:5
STEP UP [illegible] 0 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30
FIRST DAY HIGH 2:10 / 4:40 / 7:10 / 9:40
JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE 12:40 / 2:40 / 4:40
DEAD OR ALIVE 1:25 / 3:30 / 5:35 / 7:40 / 9:45
THE DEPARTED 2:40 / 5:50 / 9:00

MALL 5

THE DEPARTED 1:40 / 4:50 / 8:00
PULSE 12:25 / 2:30 / 4:35 / 6:40 / 8:45
DEAD OR ALIVE 12:20 / 2:25 / 4:30 / 6:35 / 8:40
STEP UP 2:40 / 3:10 / 5:40 / 8:10
FIRST DAY HIGH [illegible] 3:30 / 5:50 / 8:20
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City Travel Hotel
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Tel. (074) 445-0456 / Fax (074) 445-0457

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Diamond Hotel Philippines
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Dine, fly in style and get a true Hong Kong experience. Promo is extended up to Oct. 31. For inquiries and reservations, please contact 082 221-0888 local 7232 or 7233.

Benkay - A haven for food lovers

FAMILIES CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF Benkay's popular 'Japanese Weekend Buffet' for a taste of its scrumptious smorgasbord of great Japanese dishes.

The 'Japanese Weekend Buffet' has become a weekend ritual for gourmands to come and visit Benkay to sample its wide array of choices from the freshest sushi and salads to agemeno dishes of gindara and salmon, teppankaki, tempuras, sukiyakis, selection of sobas and Japanese sweets for only P995++ per person. Families are also attracted with the 50 percent discount on the buffet rate for children dining ages 4 to 10 years old. "With our weekend buffet, we offer food lovers value for money as they enjoy more of our authentic Japanese dishes," said Benkay's head chef Yoshiaki Tomiyama.

Benkay is located at the lobby level of Dusit Hotel Nikko. The 'Japanese Weekend Buffet' is available every Saturday and Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. For inquiries, please call the restaurant manager at 867-3333 extension 3343. Advance dining reservation is advised.

Octoberfes
Aston

COME CELEBRATE THE BEER AND WINE festival at Café Astoria and experience a night of fun .

Gulp the night away with your favorite draft beer for only P290++ per person from 6 to 8 p.m.

Super-filled Pulutan Barkada Bounties of assorted grilled seafood and your favorite inihaw for 4 to 5 persons are available for only P700++ and P1,200++ for 8 to 10 persons.

Top off your evening with their cheese platter selection coupled with the local and imported wines for only P550++ per person. Available at Café Astoria from Oct. 1 to 31.

Astoria Plaza is ideally located at # 15 J. Escriva Drive (formerly Amber Ave.) Ortigas Business District, Pasig City. For inquiries, you can call 687-1111. E-mail: sales@astoriaplaza.com, website: www.astoriaplaza.com.

Astoria Plaza is managed with distinction by Genesis Hotels and Resorts.

Follow that bean!

THERE ARE MANY COFFEE blends enjoyed all over the world, but the basic beans are Arabica and Robusta. Arabica is grown in the western side of the planet, mostly in high altitudes of 900-2,000 meters. Its long flat beans are fresh green in color, producing a particularly full aroma. On the other hand, Robusta is found in the eastern part of the earth. With beans that are convex and round, it is almost brown in color. With these beans as a platform, different coffee producing countries developed their own distinct blends.

Coffee lovers who enjoy a lacing of chocolate flavor in their brew can't get enough of their mocha. Now, Mocha can be defined in three different ways: as "an old-fashioned nickname for coffee, a common name for coffee from Yemen, and the name of a drink made up of coffee and hot chocolate in equal parts."

Asian coffees are also some of the most sought after, especially those grown by the Dutch from Arabica trees in Java, Indonesia.

FREEZE White
Choco Freeze

While the rust disease almost killed that industry, coffee has made a comeback and the revived coffee plantations now produce a good Java Arabica named Djampit.

Coffee lovers can sample a kaleidoscope of these flavors of the bean at the Book and Bean Show on Oct. 12 to 15, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the Megatrade Hall 3, Building B, SM Megamall, Edsa, Ortigas Center, Complex, Mandaluyong City. Exhibiting their coffee products and sharing information about franchising opportunities are coffee luminaries that include Concept Specialist Inc, Equilibrium Intertrade Corp, Gourmet Farms Inc, HKR Equipment Corp, Mocha Blends Corp, Overlay Philippines Corp, Philippine Foodservice Equipment and Supplies Corp (PFESCORP), The Coffee Beanery and The Coffee Experience.

The Book and Bean Show also presents a venue for book exploration, as exhibitors in the publishing industry showcase their latest titles.

The Book and Bean Show is sponsored by Philippine Graphic Publications Incorporated, Joey Rythms @ 92.3, NU 107 and 103.5 K-Lite. For more information about the Book and Bean Show, contact Dang Santos at 896-0682.

HOT Drinks
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People, Events & Products

Marriage Encounter in Tagaytay

THE GALILEE CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC COMMUNITY WILL HOLD A MARriage Encounter Weekend Seminar at the St. Joseph Marello Retreat House, Tagaytay City on Oct. 27 to 29. The Marriage Encounter is designed to renew marriages by offering the chance for spouses to rediscover each other. The program has also been proven helpful in healing marriages on the rocks or couples who are struggling to stay together. For inquiries, please contact Cris at 0920-9287122; Cora at 0917-5003961; Lorrie at 0916-4090159 or Viollie at 0918-7983270. All calls will be treated with strictest confidentiality.

Fr. Corsie Legaspi leads Asean tour group

REV. FR. CORSIE LEGASPI, THE NOTED HEALING PRIEST, IS LEADING A group tour to several Asean places notably Singapore, Malaysia, Macau, Shenzhen and Hong Kong. This nine day tour from Oct. 26 to Nov. 3, is intended for those unable to go with him to Europe. Fr. Corsie will say mass and conduct healing sessions in hotels for lack of churches in those places. For more details and information, please contact Salve at 0917-4110154.

The Body and Mind Wellness Series

SYSTEM BRAHMA SATYA WAS FOUNDED IN 1997 BY DEEPAK HARDIKAR. The purpose of this system is to improve the quality of life and bring an holistic sense of wellness through various healing and meditation techniques which alleviate acute, chronic and incurable conditions. Experience a special gateway to body and mind wellness as a wide range of healing training, meditations and services will be offered in Manila. The sessions will be conducted by founder and master healer Deepak Hardikar at the Executive Lounge of the Dasmariñas Village Association from Oct. 5 to 10. The series is composed of workshops, guided meditations and services that will focus on body healing and mind evolution which are oriented towards higher spiritual growth. The methods on offer can heal acute or chronic diseases, body ailments, stress and tensions, emotional and mental disturbances, karmic fields, relationships, situations and even objects. For inquiries, contact Kanchan (0917-7913369), Renu (0917-9982479) and Vivien (0918-5153215) or e-mail at drupati2002@yahoo.com and gdfrancisco@yahoo.com or check out http://sevensalcove.multiply.com/journal.

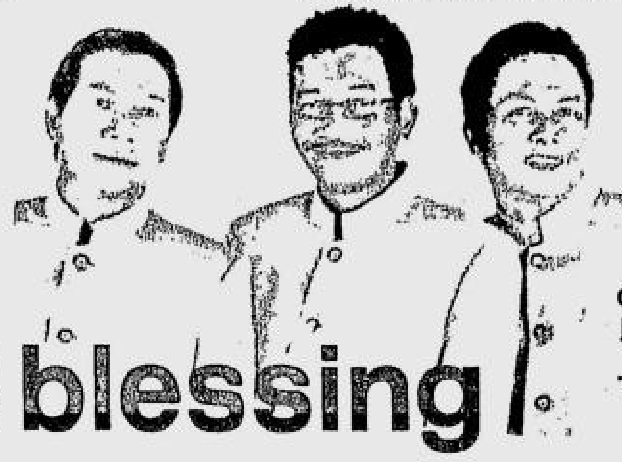
Study in USA seminar

USA AS A DESTINATION does not need further selling because for many Filipinos, it is the the American dream. And for most of them, the best way to realize that dream is to study in the USA. But with all the myriad choices of excellent American schools, how can one discern the best choice? International Education Specialists (Inter-Ed), in cooperation with the US Commercial Service, presents a rare opportunity to explore studying in the USA when Study Group visits Manila to hold seminars, interviews and dialogue with students on Oct. 12; from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. covering high school studies, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. covering university courses and from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. covering master's degrees) at the American Business Center, 25/F Ayala Life-FGU Center, 6811 Ayala Avenue, Makati City. Because the venue is a US Embassy facility employing tight security - no bags or cellphones are allowed inside.

Study Group assists in placing students to top American learning institutions, from high school to colleges and universities, and even graduate level studies.

For more information on the Study USA seminars, contact Inter-Ed at 2/F Trafalgar Plaza, H.V. dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City; telephones 819-1001, 819-1002; fax 810-2825, 811-8377; mobile phones (0916) 442-6120, (0928) 270-8527; or email: intl_edu_specialists@pldtdsl.net. On line Pre-registration is mandatory. Log on to http://www.inter-ed.com/app_form.asp or www.buyusa.gov/philippines/en/studyusa06intered.html

'Kami nAPO Muna' is a mixed blessing



GAROVILLO, JAVIER AND PAREDES. Tough acts to follow.

By Noelani Torre

IN THE HISTORY OF ORIGINAL Pilipino Music, there's been no other group quite like the Apo Hiking Society. When they first came into the scene more than 30 years ago OPM was still a largely nebulous concept, but the trio's very Pinoy style of music-making soon made it more popular than the American Top 40 junk then saturating the airwaves.

They made practically all of us fall in love with their music, and as evinced by the recent release of the tribute album "Kami nAPO Muna (Tribute to Apo Hiking Society)," we are still very much enamored with Danny Javier, Jim Paredes and Boboy Garovillo.

Special edition

In this day and age of piracy, the album (which has a two-disc special edition with the original versions) went gold mere days after its release and is now probably well on its way toward hitting platinum.

Featuring well-known bands and individual artists like Parokya ni Edgar, Barbie Almalbis, Kamikazee, Sandwich, Kitchie Nadal, and The Dawn, this 18-track compilation sounds very promising—when read aloud from the CD's inlay, that is. The CD itself doesn't quite live up to that promise.

First track "Pumapatak ang Ulan" as rendered by Parokya ni Edgar doesn't exactly blow your mind. Okay, so it's originally a chill-out song, but here—despite the louder presence of both drums and bass—they've made this old favorite sound positively soporific.

Second track "Yakap sa Dilim" fares better in the hands of Orange & Lemons, though it isn't one of the standout performances in this album.

Swingy classic

"Doo Bidoo" certainly qualifies as one of those, but not exactly in a good way. Kamikazee's version of this swingy classic hardly has any swing or, for that matter, melody.

To be sure, the rocked-up version is interesting (and proving to be quite popular), but it robs the song of its original charm and replaces it with an experimental quality that wins points for its edginess, but sounds too much like a still-disjointed first draft (or whatever it is you call the musical version thereof).

One of the performances that does stand out positively is the Itchyworms' rendition of "Awit ng Barkada." Just a bit faster than the original, it sounds fresh and young—a thoroughly likable performance that's just so darned cute.

Good enough

As the CD plays on, however, you'll realize that there really aren't that many outstanding tracks here. Oh, they're mostly good enough—after all, it would take a singular lack of talent to muck up such well-crafted songs—but only a few numbers grab your attention, and the whole exercise seems rather pointless. Why listen to "good enough" renditions when you can have the unsurpassable originals?

Nonetheless, there are some great performances here—"Batang-bata Ka Pa" by Sugarfree, "Kabilugan ng Buwan" by Drip, and "Bawat Bata" by The Dawn.

Best number

The first is probably the best number in this entire disc. Sugarfree lead singer Ebe gives a finely nuanced performance that contrasts sharply with those of other just-coasting-along artists.

Drip's rendition of "Kabilugan ng Buwan" is wonderfully chilled out, and The Dawn make "Bawat Bata" sound like one of their own songs.

Perhaps the problem here is simply that most of the participating artists forgot to look up the meaning of the word tribute. They don't sound as though they put their hearts into it. If you're paying tribute, isn't that the first thing you do?

Scary Has Become A Lot Of Fun!

Shang Halloween Carnival '06 • Grand Atrium • October 28, 1:00pm

This year, Shang's Halloween Party brings to life the vibrant noise and colors of the carnival. No more frightened souls, only merry ones.

TRICK
or
TREAT

How To Join:
1. The Halloween Party is open to kids from ages 1 to 12 who should come in Halloween costume.
2. Registration of ₱350 is required.
3. Registration period starts on October 9, from 11:00am to 6:00pm at the Shangri-La Plaza Corp. Administration Office at Level 5.
4. Only the first 250 registrants will be accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis.
5. No-show participants will not be qualified for registration fee refund.

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Seeing double

By Nestor U. Torre

THESE DAYS, STARS DON'T MAKE AS many movies as they used to, so when they appear in two films in a row, it's cause for celebration. It's also an opportunity to evaluate a lead player's versatility as he plays diverse characters, sometimes in radically different types of films.

STREEP. From "Prada" to "Prairie Home Companion."

KUTCHER. Stars in "The Guardian," voice-acts in animated feature.

Icy perfection

For instance, Meryl Streep recently scored an acting coup in "The Devil Wears Prada," where she portrayed a fashion magazine editor "from hell" to icy perfection.

However, in her next starrer, "Prairie Home Companion," Streep makes a radical shift and plays it warm, homespun and real. Even better, the film is megged by *the* Robert Altman, which makes it a should-see in our book.

For his part, Tim Allen is cast in two family flicks in a row, "Zoom" and "Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause." The sequel is par for the course for Allen, as he again plays Santa.

This time around, he's looking forward to the birth of baby Claus, but his happiness turns sour when Jack Frost (Martin Short) tries to take over the Christmas season!

In "Zoom," Allen is cast as an out-of-shape former superhero who is tasked with the training of four teenage superheroes who are raring to save the world from destruction.

The actor agreed to appear in the film because he likes working with young actors, and because he responded to the story's theme about kids who are special but feel like outcasts. And Allen thought it would be fun to play a character who returns to redeem himself for mistakes he made in the past.

Another star who's making back-to-back appearances this film season is Hugh Jackman. In "The Prestige," Jackman plays a magician whose intense rivalry with another top prestidigitator (Christian Bale) results in a life-long battle for supremacy that's full of obsession, deceit and jealousy, and has dangerous and even deadly consequences.

Worst singer

In huge contrast, in "Happy Feet," Jackman provides the voice of Memphis, an Emperor penguin who must teach his young son, Mumble, to find a "heartsong" to attract a mate. Trouble is, Mumble is the worst singer in the world!

Incidentally, we're also seeing double when it comes to penguin films. We've just viewed the full-length documentary, "Penguin, Penguin, Paano Ka Ginawa?" ("March of the Penguins" in Filipino translation), and now, here comes the animated feature, "Happy Feet!" Well, penguins are as cute as all get-out, so we welcome the twin-scoop viewing treat.

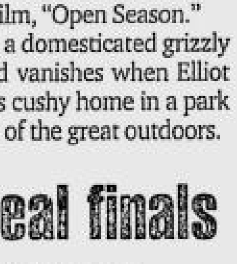
Youthful confidence

A fourth star who's making movies all over the place is Ashton Kutcher. In "The Guardian," he tries the action genre for the first time. He plays Jake Fischer, a former swimming champion whose strength as a swimmer is exceeded only by the power of his youthful confidence. Kutcher's co-star is no less than Kevin Costner.

For lighthearted contrast, Kutcher is voice-acting the role of Elliot, a fast-talking mule deer, in the full-length animated film, "Open Season."

The film is about Boog, a domesticated grizzly bear, whose perfect world vanishes when Elliot convinces him to leave his cushy home in a park ranger's garage for a taste of the great outdoors.

Anak TV Seal finals set in Davao



ROCES. SEAFCTV president.

AFTER JURY screenings held all over the country since March under the auspices of Negros Navigation, Columbia International, Splash Corp. and Goldilocks, the Anak TV Seal Secretariat announces that a total of 81 entries have been shortlisted and have now been elevated to the final round by over 3, 237 jurors from all walks of life.

The second leg of the national finals will be held on Oct. 14 at the Ateneo de Davao University in Davao City. The finals, hosted by Ateneo de Davao University, Columbia International and Goldilocks, coincide with the national celebration of Children's Month.

Finalists

ABS-CBN has 14 entries now aiming to receive the annual Anak TV Seal, the mark of family-friendly television. RPN has 10 finalists, Studio 23 has six, NET 25 has seven, GMA has eight, ABC 5 has 13, IBC has three, NBN has 11 and QTV has eight.

The TV shows that will win the nod of the panel of experts in the twin finals set in Davao and Baguio automatically vie for the third and final jury deliberations, this time consisting of the presidents and general managers of the various member TV networks of the Southeast Asian Foundation for Children and Television.

Jurors

Among the jurors in the Davao finals are child psychologists, curriculum specialists, college deans, leaders of the clergy and civil and

ANAK TV/ G3

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1 THE DEPARTED
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12 30, 3 40, 6 50, 10.00
2 TALLADEGA NIGHTS
MTRCB R-13
12 00, 2 30 5 00, 7 30, 10 00
3 GERMAN FILM FEST
GO FOR ZUCKER (R-13) 1 00, 9 40
THE OTHER FINAL (GP) 3 00
GOODBYE LENIN (R-13) 5 30
SOUNDLESS (R-18) 7 30
4 PULSE
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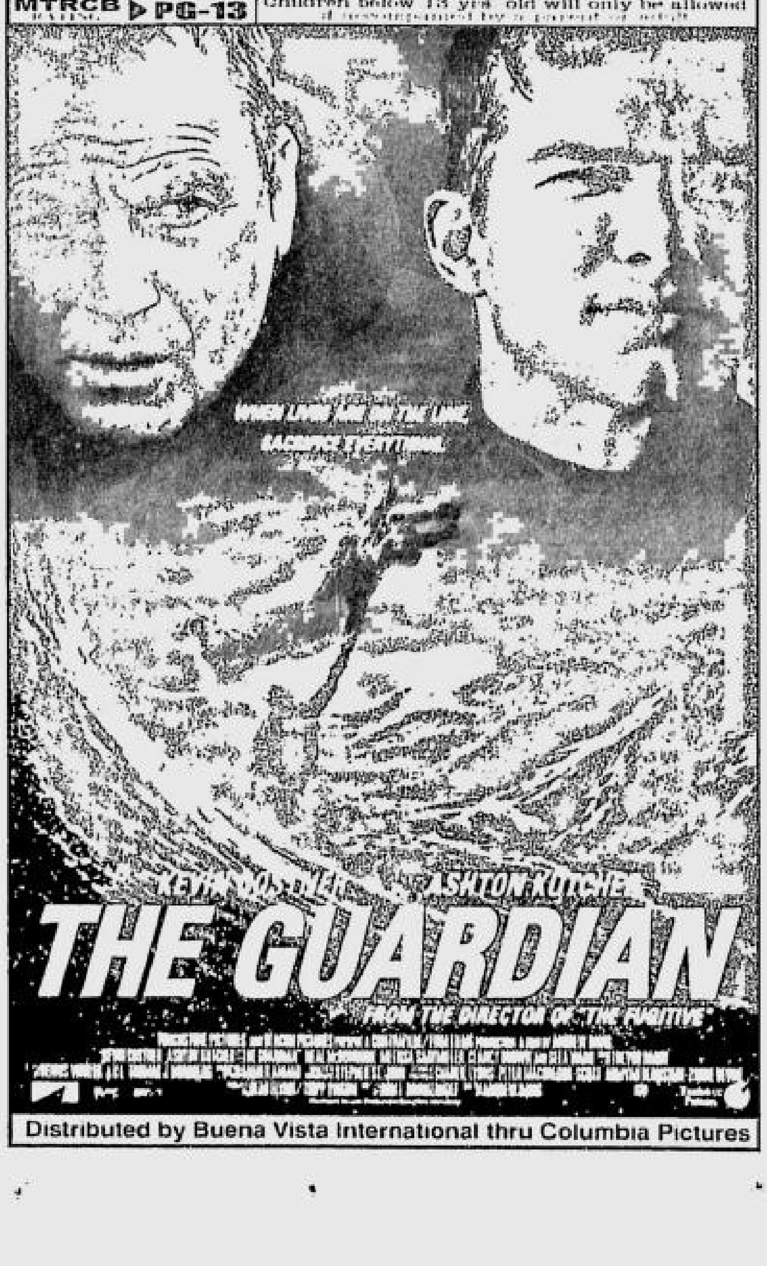

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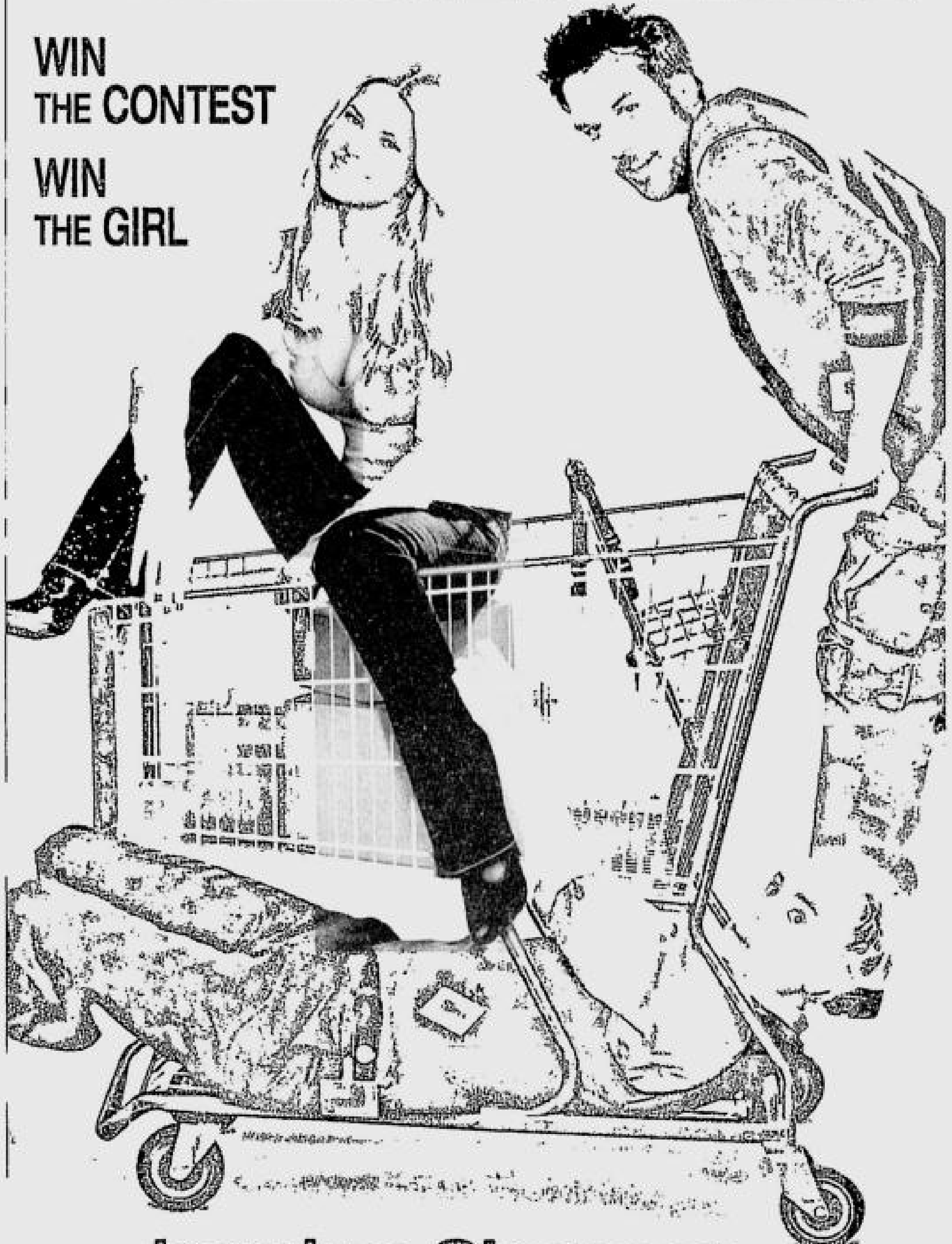
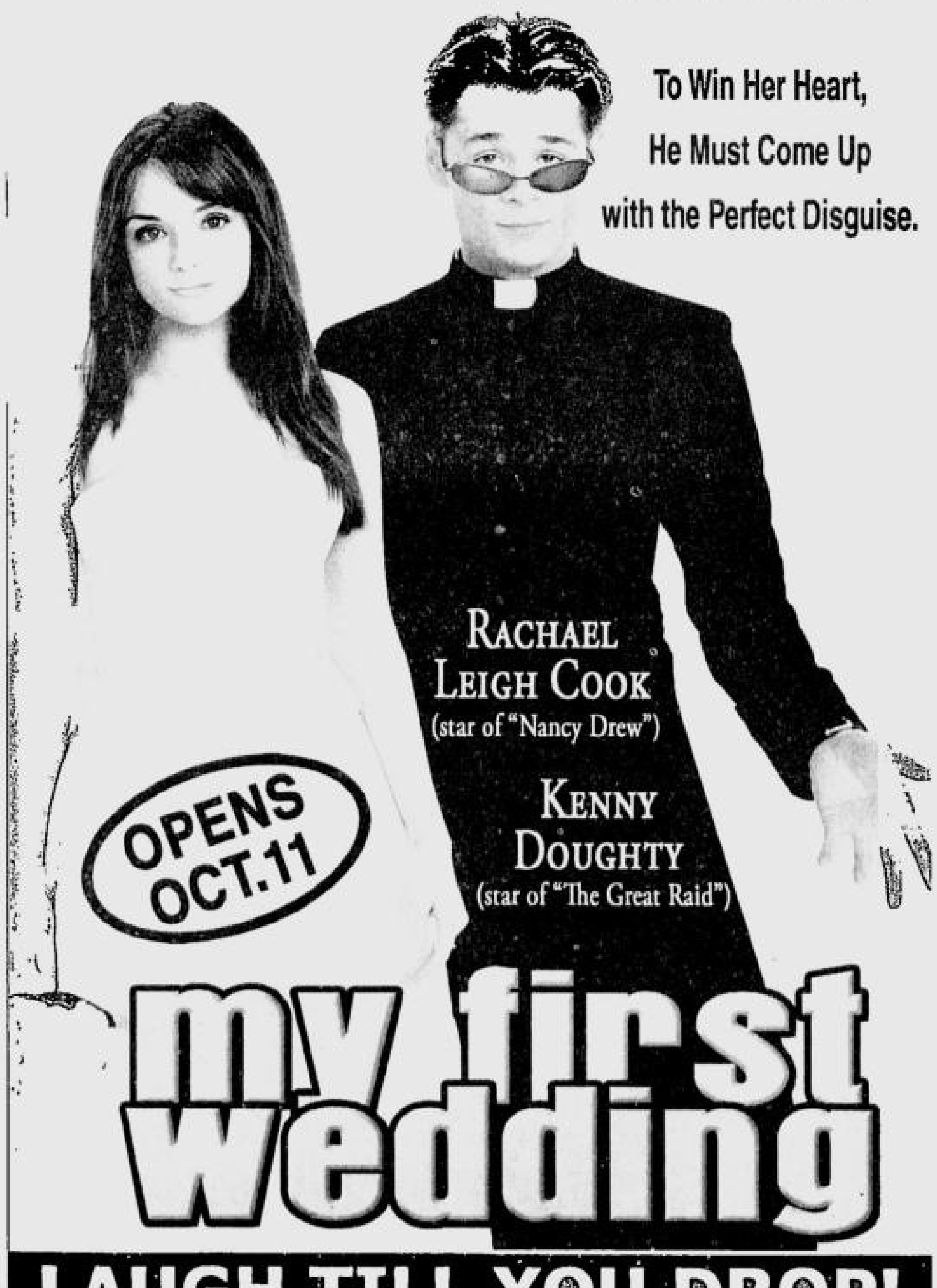


Jessica Simpson
Dane Cook Dax Shepard
Employee of the Month

WEDDING ADVISORY: A MUST-SEE MOVIE FOR THOSE WHO ARE PLANNING TO GET MARRIED SOON.
The FUNNIEST and CRAZIEST wedding comedy of the year from the company that gave you 'NOTTING HILL'!
To Win Her Heart,
He Must Come Up
with the Perfect Disguise.



RACHAEL LEIGH COOK
(star of "Nancy Drew")
KENNY DOUGHTY
(star of "The Great Raid")
OPENS OCT.11
my first wedding
LAUGH TILL YOU DROP!

Gamelan classes at UP

MONTAGE

THE UP COLLEGE OF MUSIC, now marking its 90th anniversary, offers gamelan classes conducted by Lilymae Franco Montano, who trained under Indonesian instructors who taught gamelan playing for 15 years at the college. Call 981-8500, local 2635.

'Eugene Onegin'

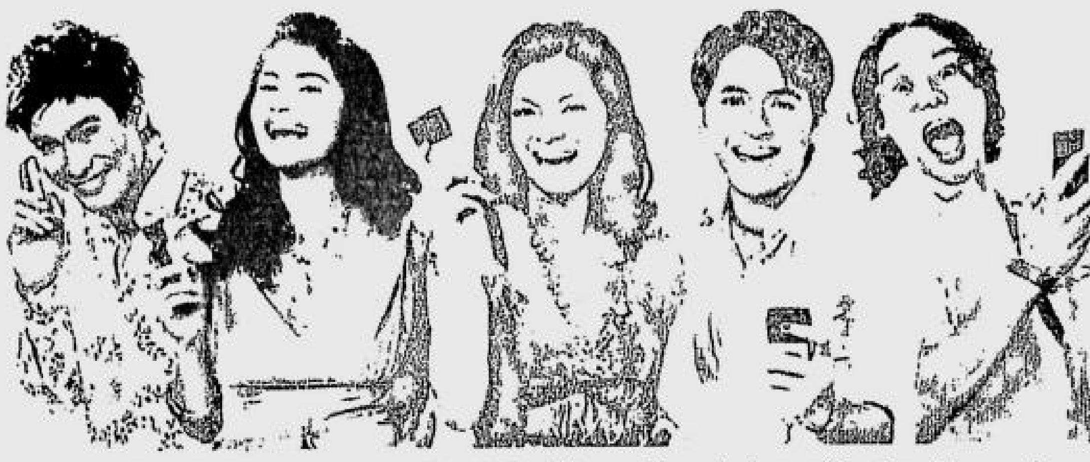
Tchaikovsky's opera, "Eugene Onegin," will have its final performance at the CCP Main Theater tonight. The UST Conservatory of Music presentation topbills Andrew Fernando and Rachelle Gerodias, with Hermie Ranera as musical director and Floy Quintos as director. Call 731-4022 or 832-1125.

SpongeBob SquarePants at Jollibee

Join SpongeBob SquarePants and his Bikini Bottom buddies as they splash into Jollibee stores in their latest Kids' Meal offering, the SpongeBob SquarePants Freezer Fellas.

The four functional toys are SpongeBob Pops for icy popsicles, Patrick Star Juicer to make refreshing drinks which can then be poured into the Mr. Krabs Shaker, plus the Sandy Cheeks Ice Cream Chiller for making soft-serve ice cream.

What's more, you can celebrate your birthday at Jollibee with a SpongeBob Party theme. And get a chance to win a trip for four to Australia to meet SpongeBob in person when you purchase two orders of the Jollibee Kids' Meal. Log on to www.nicksplat.com.


MILBY, CURTIS, LOCSIN, TRILLO, QUIZON. Topbill prepaid service's new "Ang Saya!" campaign.

High Five for Smart Buddy

"Ang Saya!" is the stirring theme of the new advertising campaign for Smart Buddy, the country's largest prepaid service, featuring hot young talents Angel Locsin, Epy Quizon, Sam Milby, Dennis Trillo and Anne Curtis.

The High Five were chosen because they best embody the different people who subscribe to Smart Buddy.

Angel reminds subscribers that Smart has lowered the price of MMS to P1 per send, Dennis promotes the All Text service, Epy plugs Libre Text abroad, Sam endorses Smart's flat rate call service, and Anne boosts its 258 combo packages.

WILLIAMS. "Close Encounters" concert on TV on Oct. 8.

On Star World

Robbie Williams' "Close Encounters" tour will be presented on Star World at 9 p.m. on Oct. 8.

On Wednesday, Oct. 11 at 9 p.m., "Grey's Anatomy" returns with more riveting and complex episodes dramatizing love, sex, life, death—and doctors.

Chelsea Emata . . .

From page G4

Colleen Cronin and Jeannie Deva for voice technique.

All this preparation and honing served Chelsea in very good stead as she worked in a great number of productions in the Los Angeles area.

CHELSEA has recorded close to 100 songs.

Featured player

On TV, she was a featured player on "Fight for Fame" on E channel, and "30 Seconds to Fame" on Fox. She hosted "Essence of Youth" on Channel 25, and did sketch comedy on "Omba Mokomba" on the Disney Channel and "Wild and Crazy Kids" on Nickelodeon.

Her stints in musical theater were similarly noteworthy: She played Hodel in "Fiddler on the Roof," Serena in "Fame: The Musical," and Connie Wong in "Chorus Line," all at the State Theater.

Best of all, she sang the role of Grizabella in Paramount Studios' production of the acclaimed musical, "Cats."

Voice-over work

Chelsea has also done voice-over work: as Lin in Nickelodeon's "Wild Thornberries," Brave in Sony's "Brave: Search for the Spirit Dancer," and the title roles in "Kiddo," and "Vampirella," both for Magic Dreams Entertainment.

Chelsea has also found inspiration in her Tita Bing's success as a composer, and has written and co-written 40 of her own songs.

As a singer, she has recorded close to 100 songs. Having spent close to a thousand hours in the studio working on tracks, recording and collaborating with well-known producers, Chelsea has become a seasoned pro.

Female pop group

When she joined the female pop group SX4, she further developed her songwriting, harmonizing and performing capabilities.

These days, Chelsea is busy as a solo performing artist and has just recorded a 10-song CD of her own compositions. Titled "Do Whatcha Wanna Do," the CD is categorized as pop/R&B/rock, and will be released before the end of the year.

Our hope is that Chelsea will find time to perform in the Philippines, to share her gift for music and performing with local audiences. The next time she goes on home leave, perhaps?

Talking the talk in broadcast media

By Behn Cervantes

I RECEIVED A LOT OF calls from friends and acquaintances after I wrote about the bad habits of television personalities, especially those in the news department. Many of the callers said I should have pointed out the funny accents of radio disk jockeys, who think they're "in" when they speak nasally and use Inner City-type idiomatic phrases.

These announcers Americanize Tagalog words and Filipino names. As a result, our capital city becomes Manehlah, and the summer capital becomes Bay-gyow! For sun, fun and games, they refer to Bora or BOracay, even if the island's natives call it BoRAcay. Instead of *sari-sari*, they say "sare-sare."

Ridiculous

They talk about Kris Aqui-*know*, or Amy Pe-*rez*. Even if they're aware that unenlightened Americans mispronounce her name, they still refer to the famous Latina singer as Jennifer *Low*-pez. Ridiculous!

Hispanics in New York got so tired of controversial TV host, Geraldo Rivera, Americanizing his name to Jeraldo that they wrote tons of letters to remind him of his Spanish roots—and the proper way to pronounce his name!

He was forced to apologize to them and since then has pronounced his name Heraldo, as he should have from the very beginning. It's not like he didn't know how to pronounce his own name, right?

Confusion

Another complaint, especially from parents, is the flagrant use of Taglish as the easy way out of daily communication problems among the young. Sadly, this practice results in confusion and lack of mastery. These days, there's hardly any effort to speak either language correctly.

I was raised to speak both languages well. If you chose to speak Tagalog, you did so as correctly as you could. If you spoke English, observe correct grammar. Now, there's a tendency to bastardize both languages.

I appreciate Randy David, who uses both languages with flair and integrity. I am slightly taken aback when newscasters and talk show hosts use wanna-wanna and gonna-gonna, instead of "want to" and "going to." Not long ago, that was a no-no. These days, however, newscasters who should know better take the path of least resistance and utilize street grammar even when discussing vital topics.

Sober stance

In this area, Ricky Carandang and Dong Puno are exemplary in the use of formal English. On magazine and public affairs shows, Cheche Lazaro stands out for her fine, unaffected English, as well as for her sober stance on any issue, controversial or otherwise.

Department heads of TV stations have become too liberal when dealing with their on-cam personnel. Television personalities have an effect on impressionable, young viewers. Instead of misleading them, they should serve as examples of fine communication.

The perceived deterioration of English and Tagalog here can partly be blamed on the cavalier use of those languages by people in media, especially the broadcast media. Because of their wide reach, newscasters, announcers, talk show and entertainment hosts should take their responsibility seriously as grammatically proficient communicators.

Lessons learned

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

OUR TEACHER ONCE SAID: "Turn the negative into a positive." So, when we experienced a strong typhoon recently, we introspected deeply. Here are some realizations:

Storms come and go,
they're just a fading, passing show.
Material pleasures and distress are the same way:
They appear, then fade away.
Watch a storm's power and intensity
And you will be humbled by God's supremacy.
What men has built for years
Can be toppled in a minute by Nature's wave.

Environment

We destroy our environment without much concern,
Nature pays us back is the lessons we need to learn.
Watch a storm through a window—
Relax in the love of the Supreme
As you view life's highs and lows.
A storm can topple a shallow-rooted tree,
A problem can drown a man devoid of spirituality.
At the end of a storm, we become more mature
If we bask in the shelter of the Eternal, which will endure.

Anak TV Seal finals . . .

From page G2

corporate society, media experts, visual artists as well as parents and NGO leaders from Davao City and nearby municipalities.

Anak TV is the SEAFCTV's flagship project. It is supported by Unicef and Negros Navigation as well as by family-friendly corporate partners Goldilocks, Cebu Pacific, Splash Corp., Universal Robina Corp., Panasonic, PLDT, Uni-President, Hallmark and Columbia's.

Edgardo Roces, former president of ABC-5, is current president of the foundation and Mag Cruz Hatol is the secretary general.

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PULSE R13 12:30,2:30,4:30, 6:30,8:30	THE DEPARTED R13 2:10,5:10,8:10	TALLADEGA NIGHTS: THE BALLAD OF RICKY BOBBY R13 1:10,3:25,5:40,7:55,10:10
FLYBOYS PG13 1:30,4:20,7:10,10:00	ZOOM G 1:00,3:00,5:00,7:00,9:00	THE DEPARTED R13 1:30,4:30,7:30,10:30

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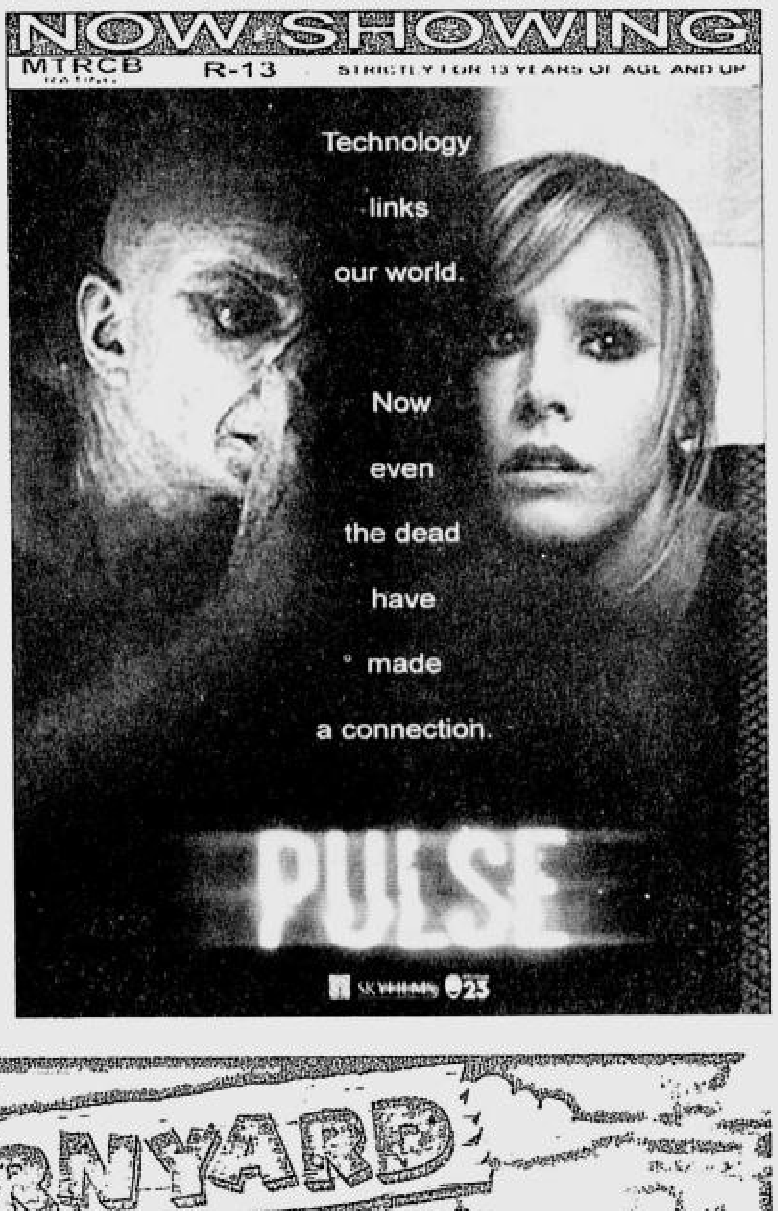
MTRCB RATING R-13
No Brakes. No Brains.
TALLADEGA NIGHTS
THE BALLAD OF RICKY BOBBY

MTRCB RATING R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE
3RD WEEK
STILL RAGING TERROR AT THE BOX OFFICE!
MAN'S BEST FRIEND IS HIS WORST NIGHTMARE.
A WES CRAVEN PRODUCTION
THE BREED
DIRECTED BY NICK MASTANDREA
VIVA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BARNYARD
THE ORIGINAL PARTY ANIMALS
IN THEATERS OCT. 11
Distributed by Solar Entertainment Corporation

MYGLOBE
INFO + FUN + ATBP
Movie schedules now showing on your phone.
Text MOVIE to 2222 for FREE
ang lakas mo sa Globe

Chelsea Emata pursues thriving multi-media career in the States

By Nestor U. Torre

FIL-AM SINGING SENSATION Chelsea Emata began her singing career in the Philippines at a really early age. She was only five years old when she performed in her aunt Lourdes "Bing" Pimentel's concert of self-composed songs.

That experience was a most enjoyable one for little Chelsea. Her heartfelt rendition of her aunt's song about streetchildren, "Batang Lansangan," elicited an ovation from delighted listeners that further increased the child singer's love for performing.

Standout singer

After her family moved to the States, Chelsea took up lessons in singing and dancing to hone her natural performing talent, and she became a standout singer. She graduated from the LA County High School for the Arts, where she studied music theory, dance and theater.

It was around this time that Chelsea flew back to the Philippines to star in Bing's religious musical revue, "Nasaan si Hesus?" Among others, she played a teenage girl burdened with an unwanted pregnancy, and won plaudits both for her acting and singing prowess.

Back in the States, Chelsea trained at the Academy of Radio Broadcasting, at Weist-Baroon Hill in acting for TV and commercials, and with

CHELSEA/ G3

EMATA. Exceptional singer, recording artist, TV performer and voice-over talent.

ANGAT ANG PINOY BUONG LINGGO

Saturday

1:00 pm Wowowee Live sa Pampanga!
Mga cabalen, nasa East Gate Center, San Fernando, Pampanga
sina Willie at ang cast ng Maging Sino Ka Man!
John Lloyd Cruz, Bea Alonzo, Anne Curtis & Sam Milby,

Nagmamahal, Kapamilya
Ang nakatutuwang kuwento ng Reyna ng Sablay.
Zanjoe Marudo with Toni Gonzaga as 'Oh Tokyo!' host Ellen Nishiumi.

Let's Go
The GO girls meet the man of their dreams.

Star Magic Presents Five Minutes
Featuring Joross Gamboa & Roxanne Guinoo.
Kaya mo bang ma-in love sa isang lalake
within 5 minutes of meeting him?

Komiks presents Da Adventures of Pedro Penduko
Aswang vs original Pinoy adventurer...
Mananalo ba ang kasamaan sa kabutihan?

IMAHINASYON NG PINOY

John En Shirley
Si Lola Encar, may lovelife pa?
Guest star Eddie "Manoy" Garcia loves Manay Susan Roces.

TV Patrol Sabado
Mga balitang dito mo lang mababalitaan.

XXX
Illegal recruiter, mabubuko na!

Pinoy Dream Academy
Sino kina Davey, Kristoff, Oona at Yeng
ang ma-e-expel at aalis na ng bahay?

Aalog-alog
May pera pala sa poso ni Keanna?

Sports Unlimited
Silipin ang bagong bahay at baby ni PACMAN!

Sunday

12:00 noon ASAP '06 Hotdog Party
Repapips. Jamming. Groovy tsong.
Ire-revive ang Manila sound...
ASAP Music's HOTSILOG Album launch!
Ang mga kanta ng 70's band HOTDOG
bibigyan ng '06 spin!

Hotsilog
Hotdog Compilation
MUSIKANG PINOY

Your Song Ang Soundtrack ng Lovelife Mo
presents "Pers Lab" by Hotdog
Starring: Sarah Geronimo and Carlo Aquino
Paano kung ang first love mo forbidden love din!
This October, it's the HOTDOG series special!

Love Spell
presents Charm and Crystal
Starring: Shaina Magdangal, Rayver Cruz, Kim Chui & Gerald Anderson

4:00 pm The Buzz

9 NA LIHIM NG SHOWBIZ IBUBUNYAG NA

6:00 pm Goin' Bulilit
Riot na! Dahil ang mga kids, magwewelga!

TV Patrol Linggo
Hatid ang mga mainit na weekend balita.

Rated K Handa Na Ba Kayo?
Mga most wanted na bagay sa Pinas!

Sharon
Is beauty skin deep? Pag-uusapan yan nina Megastar,
Vicky Belo at Manny Calayan kasama ang celebrity endorsers nila!

Pinoy Dream Academy
Luhaan ba ang scholar na aalis sa Academy?

Sunday's Best
Star Olympics 20 on 2 (Part One). One Force. One Water.

One Force – One Water

Weekdays Ito ang bagong ALL-TIME BIGTIME

10:40 am Homeboy
Makipagkwentuhan kay Boy Abunda,
ang bestfriend ng bayan!

Pilipinas, Game K N B?
Masasagot mo ba ang mga tanong ni Kris?

Wowowee
Kasiyahan na ikaw ang bida!

KASIYAHAN NG PINOY

Kapamilya Cinema
- BUHAY KAMAO
- GASCON: BALA ANG KATAPAT
- BUHAY MO, BUHAY KO RIN
- JUAN AND TED: WANTED
- VAMPIRA

Pasion De Amor
TUTUKAN ANG NALALAPIT NA PAGTATAPOS
NG PINAKAMAINIT NA TELENOVELA!

My Girl Most Requested Series
Your favorite chick is in town!

Primetime Bida pagkatapos ng TV Patrol World

Kapamilya Deal or No Deal
Ikaw na ba ang susunod na milyonaryo?

Super Inggo

Nanalo ka na ba ng P10,000?
Tutok lang kay Super Inggo
at pwede kang magkapremyo!

Maging Sino Ka Man
Isang powerhouse cast sa isang powerful story.

Crazy For You
Mabubuking na ba ni Wacky ang double identity ni Janice?

Pinoy Dream Academy
Dito mo malalaman kung paano mag-training ang mga superstars!

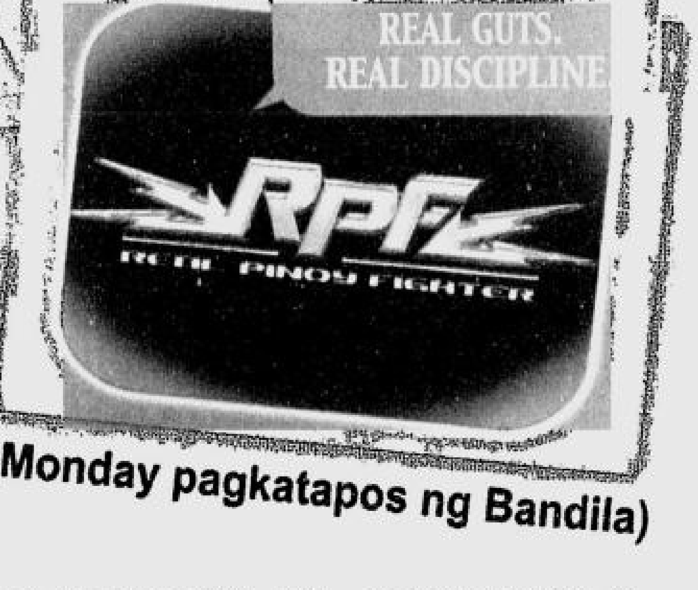
Maalaala Mo Kaya Friday after Maging Sino Ka Man
Batang patay na nabuhay. Starring Eula Valdes, Joel Torre at Nash Aguas

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

MAGING SINO KA MAN

ANG BAGONG BIGATING TELESERYE NA PAGBIBIDAHAN NG MGA MALALAKING ARTISTA!

ANGAT ANG DAMDAMIN NG PINOY



(Monday pagkatapos ng Bandila)

SUPER PANALO sa SUPER INGGO

ABS-CBN